2021

ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF EASTON

TOWN OF EASTON 2021
www.easton.ma.us

Incorporated	1725
Area of Town	29.04 Square Miles
Population	25,058 (2020 Federal Census) 21,170 (2021 Town Census)
Form of Government	Open Town Meeting
Total Assessed Real and Personal Property Valuation as of Jan 1, 2021	$4,141,660,135
Annual Town Meeting	Third Monday in May May 17, 2021
Annual Town Election	Fourth Tuesday in April or between 4/15 – 4/30 Saturday, April 24, 2021

REPRESENTATIVES FOR EASTON 2021

CONGRESSMEN
Elizabeth Warren, US Senator
Edward Markey, US Senator
Jake Auchincloss, Representative in Congress, 4th Congressional District

STATE SENATORS
Michael D. Brady, (D-Brockton) - 2nd Plymouth & Bristol (Precincts 1 & 2)
Walter F. Timilty (D-Milton) - Norfolk, Bristol & Plymouth (Precincts 3, 4, 5, 6)

REPRESENTATIVES IN GENERAL COURT
Claire D. Cronin (D-Easton) - 11th Plymouth District (Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
Carol A. Doherty (D-Taunton) – 3rd Bristol District (Precinct 6)

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL
Robert Jubinville (D-Milton) - 2nd District (Precincts 3, 4, 5, 6)
Christopher A Iannella, Jr. (D-Boston) - 4th District (Precincts 1 & 2)

TOWN OF EASTON
APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMITTEES
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Stephanie Alves	2022
Nikki Dostoomian	2023
Samantha Hill	2022
Amy Rodrigues	2022
Krisanne Sheedy	2023
Jennifer Stacy	2022
Ernso Stiven	2023

AGE FRENDLY ADV. COM.

Catherine Adler	2023
Kim Bales	2023
Michael Blanchard	Ex Officio
Anne Daley	Ex Officio
Dottie Fulginiti	2022
Susan Malkin Kelly	2023
Jeanne Parrinello	2023
Ramakrishna Penumarthy	2023
Earnest J Smith	2023

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Michael Luke	2024
Rory O'Dwyer	2022
Eric J Silverman	2023
Matthew Soeldner	2024
Grant West	2023

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Leonard Berkowitz	2023
Stephanie Elia	2022
Kelly Ann Lamb	2022
Marc Blain Lamb	2022
Jennifer Starr	2022

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Alex Drosos	2023
Barbara M Lerner	2022
Michelle McGee	2024
Danielle M Sicard	

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Lisha Cabral	Ex Officio
Sherraine Diaz	2022
Michael C DiPietro	2022
Caroline S O'Neill	2022
Connor Read	Ex Officio
Jennifer Stacy	2022
James A Stebbins	2022
Jacqueline A Weisman	2022

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Harris Bloomwald	2022
Neil Lerner	2023
Stuart Schoenfeld	2024

CANOE RIVER AQUIFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nicholas Block	2024
Michael Dioguardo	2022
Grant West	2023

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Harris Bloomwald	2022
Kristina Jean DeNapoli	2022
Colin McCarthy	2023
Lucas Murphy	2024
Wendy Nightingale	Ex Officio
Rupsa Roy	2024
Gregory Strange	2022

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Timothy V Hurley	2022
Katherine Minsky	2023
Vacancy	2024

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Antal Basa Jr	2024
Maya Evohr	2024
William J McAuley	2022
Matt Riley	2024
Adam Riveiro	2022
Jason T Sutton	2023
Vacancy	2023

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thomas W Brussard	2023
Amanda Buck Varella	2022
Edmund Hands	2023
Meredith Keach	2022
James Lee	2024
Carol Lundeen	2022
Dennis Sheedy	2022
Gregory Strange	2022
John Ventresco	2022

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Benjamin T Carroll	2023
Rory Kallfelz	2023
Carol Lundeen	2022
Michael Spadea	2022
Vacancy	2024
Stefan Cautino	Assoc. Member
Jonathan D Chace	Assoc. Member
Christopher Patrick	Assoc. Member

CONSTABLES

Robert Bishop	2023
James T Hartford	2024
Adam P Loomis	2024
Harold L March	2022
David Martel	2024
Matthew T Pauliks	2024
Matthew T Pauliks, Jr	2024
William E Scharnick	2024

COUNCIL ON AGING

Lynn Cleveland	2022
Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin	2024
Stephen Lyons	2023
Christine Midura	2023
Jean Shearing	2023
Matthew Soeldner	2022
Donna Welch	2024

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Elizabeth Aponte	2024
Pamela Borbely	2022
Theresa Coney	2024
Beth Goldman Galer	2022
Majorie Liew	2022
Stephanie Power	2023
Ashlee Rafeld	2023
Vacancy	2024
Vacancy	2022

EASTON SHOVEL TOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP TEAM

Pamela Borbely	2022
Suzanne Bump	2022
Carolyn Cole	2024
Dottie A Fulginiti	2020
Joan Lundgren	2024
Kristen Stone	2022
Mark Vinocoor	Alternate
Vacancy	2023
Vacancy	Alternate

ECONOMIC DEVEL. COUNCIL

Bruce Boyer	2023
Stephanie Danielson	Ex Officio
Dottie Fulginiti	2022
Jon Holbrook	2023
Marc Blaine Lamb	2022
Chris Lopes	2023
Daniel Smith	2023
Jonathan Spencer	2023
Gregory Strange	2024
Matthew Wittman	2023

GREEN COMMUNITIES COM.

Valerie Frank	2022
Robin Haverly	2024
Christina Refford	2023
Rupsa Roy	2024
James A Stebbins	2022

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Robert Bishop	2022
Timothy V Hurley	2022
Majid Mark Lashkari	2024
Amy Spencer	2023
Gregory Strange	2023
John Ventresco	2024
Mikaela Wolfe	2023

HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

Mahsa Khanbabai	2022
Robert MacLennan	2024
Jennifer Toone Campanella	2023

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Craig B Barger	2022
James Keith Boone	Ex Officio
Ilisabeth S Bornstein	2023
Karen Chan	2023
Irene Deane	2023
Beth Devonshire	2024
Michelle P. Durrance	2022
Katherine Foster	2022
Amy Gershman	2022
Kristin Hay	2024
Sergio Ramoa	2024
Alison Urciuoli	2022

LIBRARY BOARD OF DIR.

William Ames	
Kelly S Bressette	2024
Nancy Donahue	2022
James Fowler	
Karen Hays	
Kevin Kidd	
Gerard Marsan	
Donna Richman	
Hazel Varella	2022

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COM.

Lisha Cabral	Ex Officio
Kenneth Carlson	2023
Nancy DeLuca	2022
Joseph Fellone	2023
David Field	Ex Officio
Daniel Jick	2024
James A Stebbins	2022
Jacqueline A Weisman	2022
Andrew Williams	2022

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

Christopher Andersen	2024
Deborah Balcarek	2023
Peter Deschenes	2025
Amos Keddem	2022
Robert Stetson	2026
Gregory Strange	2022

PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE

Cynthia Boyce	2023
Megan Dart Montoya	2023
Jonathan Jablon	2022
Francis Murphy, Jr.	2024
William Palmer	2024

RECREATION COMMISSION

Tana M Babbitt	2023
Krystyna Ciaglo	2022
Natalie Clouser	2024
Michelle P. Durrance	2022
Steven Gaito	2022
Melissa Hartz	2023
Meredith Keach	2024

RENT CONTROL BOARD

See *Select Board*

SCHOOL PLANNING COM.

Lisha Cabral
Kenneth Carlson
Sam Cederbaum
David Field
Dottie Fulginiti
Patrick C Hellen
Jane Martin
Caroline S O'Neill
Connor Read
William Sobieraj
David Twombly
Timothy J Vamosi
Ann Weintrob
Jacqueline A Weisman

SWIFT'S PARK STEERING COMMITTEE

Stephanie Danielson	Ex Officio
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

TAXATION AID COMMITTEE

Megan Ferguson	2024
Andrew Fleischer	2022
Linda Hawkes	Ex Officio
Kometa Midred	2023
Raymen A Morrell	Ex Officio

WAYFINDING WORKING GROUP

Stephanie Danielson	Ex Officio
David Field	Ex Officio
Steven Gaito	
Kristin Hay	
Rory Kallfelz	
Amos Keddem	
Marc Lamb	
Joan Lundgren	
Connor Read	Ex Officio
Jennifer Stacy	
Jason Sutton	
Mikaela Wolfe	

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Ryan Cook	2022
John Curran	2024
Timothy McCaul	2025
Steve Merlin	2023
Michael Spillane	2026
Jeremy Kay	Alternate
Edward C Watson	Alternate

TOWN OF EASTON
ELECTED OFFICIALS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Michael J McKenna	2022
Raymen A Morrell	2023
Scott James Timulty	2024

BOARD OF HEALTH

Lynne A Leblanc	2023
Christopher A Mills	2022
Aria L Zayas	2024

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kristina Jean DeNapoli	2023
Sherraine Diaz	2022
Michael C DiPietro	2024
Patrick C Hellen	2023
Kelly Ann Lamb	2024
Timothy J Vamosi	2024
Brian DeNardo*	
Robert Jenkins *	
John Olsen *	

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Thomas Thibeault	2019 **
Donald J Burroughs	2025
Dennis J Sheedy	2022
Krisanne M Sheedy	2023
Pamela M Widdop	2026

*appointed to fill vacancy until 2022 annual election

**State Appointee

REGIONAL SCHOOL COM.

Michael J Pietrowski	2022

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Nancy DeLuca	2022
Michelle P Durrance	2023
Caroline S O'Neill	2023
Jennifer Starr	2022
Jacqueline A Weisman	2024

SELECT BOARD

Craig B Barger	2023
Dottie A Fulginiti	2022
Marc Blain Lamb	2022
Jennifer Stacy	2024
James A Stebbins	2024

TOWN MODERATOR

Kate E Welch	2024

TOWN OF EASTON
DEPARTMENT HEADS
(AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021)

Town Administrator	Connor Read
Assistant Town Administrator	Michael Blanchard
Chief Assessor	Robert Alford
Chief of Police	Gary Sullivan
Collector / Treasurer	Linda Hawkes
Director of Health & Community Services	Kristin Kennedy
Deputy Dir. Health & Community Services:	
- Community Engagement & Programming	Anne Daley
- Financial & Veteran's Services	Cory Ahonen
Director Planning & Economic Development	Stephanie Danielson
Director of Public Works / Town Engineer	David Field
Finance Director / Town Accountant	Wendy Nightingale
Fire Chief	Justin Alexander
Information Systems Manager	Michael Deltano
Inspector of Buildings	Kevin Greiner
Library Executive Director	Uma Hiremath
School Superintendent	Dr. Lisha Cabral
School Superintendent Assistant	Christine Pruitt
Town Clerk	Danielle M. Sicard
Water Division Operations Manager	Richard Tierney
Town Counsel	Mead, Talerman & Costa, LLC
Town Labor Counsel	Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON SELECT BOARD

Most people would never have imagined that we would still be in a state of emergency more than one year after the start of the pandemic. Governor Baker extended his executive order June 16, 2021 and the town continues recovery efforts.

Our local government was resilient and managed to continue to offer services to the community. Early in the year, long awaited vaccines became available. There was limited availability which caused frustration for those trying to secure an appointment at local pharmacies and mass vaccination sites. The Easton Emergency Management Agency (EEMA) provided COVID testing as supplies became available and successfully hosted several vaccination clinics with direct visits to the homebound, focusing on our most vulnerable residents. In September, booster shots became available for individuals 65 and older and for high-risk people age 18 through 64. In November, the FDA amended the emergency use authorizations for Moderna and Pfizer vaccine boosters for all individuals 18 years of age and older. Despite the successful vaccination rate in Easton and Massachusetts, the virus surged during the winter holidays. The work, commitment and dedication of our town administration, first responders and health and human services teams should be highlighted and remembered as exceptional.

The Select Board continued to meet remotely and was able to seamlessly conduct the business of the town. The Annual Town Meeting in May was safely held at Stonehill College and as we made progress in reducing infection, the Special Town Meeting was held at Oliver Ames High School in the fall.

During this year of recovery, the Select Board reports continued partnership with local businesses, infrastructure growth and a stable budget.

Highlights include:

- Depot Street construction and water main infrastructure improvements is progressing. This will connect route 138 to Five Corners, relocate the Civil War monument and redesign the intersection of Center and Depot Street for safer multimodal transportation.
- Main Street streetscape has been completed with new sidewalks, crosswalks, added parking and improved pedestrian mobility.
- Design and construction began for the $12M Red Mill Road water treatment plant and water was made available for distribution to those concerned or vulnerable to the impacts of PFAS.
- Town Meeting funded a feasibility study to explore replacing aging police, fire and DPW buildings.
- The Board appointment an Age Friendly Advisory Committee. They will use community feedback to draft an Age Friendly Action plan.
- Supported extension of the Affordable Housing Trust rental assistance program.
- Continued progress on the Blanche A Ames Elementary School building.
- Official opening of the $8.7M Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Emergency Communication Center (SEMRECC)Regional Dispatch Center.

- Reaffirmed the Select Board statement of ethics and values plus a newly created statement of equity and inclusion.
- Supported the Economic Development Council in promoting the Discover Easton app.
- The Community Choice energy aggregation program has successfully saved a net of nearly $500,000 for Easton ratepayers from November to June.
- The Tax Aid Committee has begun the work of setting up the process for offering financial assistance to income qualified applicants.
- Awarded the Government Finance Officers of America (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award for the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.
- The Community Paramedicine/Mobil Integrated Health (MIH) program of proactive Community Management Services was created and off to a strong start.
- Easton's strong bond rating was re-affirmed.
- Due to especially conservative financial management in the FY21 budget, free cash was certified at $4.7M.
- The town reserve balance topped 10% of general fund expenditures.
- The town conducted a successful land auction generating $440,000 in revenue taking seven parcels off the books to get them back on the tax rolls.
- Successfully leveraged $2.2M in CARES funds for 2020-2021 supporting town and school COVID operations.
- The Easton Police Department, via Chief Sullivan and Deputy Boone, have been working on various police reform compliance and have also secured a grant for body-worn cameras for all police.
- Under the direction of Assistant Town Administrator Michael Blanchard, the Citizens Academy plan has been initiated and will begin in the spring of 2022.
- Welcomed new Fire Chief, Justin Alexander and new Executive Assistant to the Select Board, Elizabeth Hagg.

By the end of 2021, unemployment in Easton dropped to 3.7% which was a little lower than the Commonwealth rate of 3.9%. Although people were getting back to work there were still impacts of supply chain delays causing shortages of certain foods and goods. Lack of childcare specifically impacted women and there were industry wide labor shortages. These disruptions were a challenge to our local business community. The town anticipates good news in January 2022 coming in the form of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that are estimated to total nearly $7M and received over a two-year period.

At the annual town election, the Select Board welcomed Jamie Stebbins and Jennifer Stacy to the Select Board. We thank outgoing Select Board members Tom Brussard and Chuck King for their valued contributions and service to the town.

The Select Board would like to thank Town Administrator Connor Read for his extraordinary leadership. We appreciate the incredible work of Michael Blanchard, Elizabeth Hagg, Mary Southworth and all our department heads for their service and passion. The Select Board has accomplished important work because of your ongoing support.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the employees of the Town of Easton for their hard work, and all the volunteers, both elected and appointed, who serve our community every day. Your service makes our community strong, and we truly appreciate it.

As we end the year, we reflect on the 2968 people that suffered from COVID since the pandemic began and the 70 members of our town that succumbed to the virus. We are optimistic about the future health of our neighbors with 84% of eligible individuals having received at least one vaccine dose and 75% fully vaccinated.

The people in our community have shown they are compassionate, resourceful and resilient. It is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Fulginiti, Chair
Craig Barger, Vice-Chair/Clerk
Marc Lamb
Jamie Stebbins
Jennifer Stacy

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Overview

The Finance Committee's goal is to provide accurate and objective information about financial decisions facing the Town to the citizenry of Easton in a straightforward fashion, so the citizens can make informed decisions and vote accordingly during Annual Town Meeting and at any Special Town Meeting. The independent recommendations of the Committee are included and published in the Town Warrant along with those of the Select Board and other Boards, as appropriate. Throughout the year, the Committee will consider municipal questions for the purposes of making reports or recommendations to the Town, including fund transfers when needed.

The Finance Committee is responsible to complete a detailed review and make recommendations on all Town Departments and the School Department budgets, reviewing financial impacts of all Town projects, and making recommendations on all Town Meeting warrant articles. Budget review also includes the Town's many off-budget accounts, looking for efficiencies to ensure the citizenry's tax dollars are leveraged for the most opportune use, year after year.

Finance Committee is comprised of nine elected members. Generally, each year three members' three-year terms expire. If a member resigns before the end of their term, Finance Committee and Select Board appoint a member to fill the seat, which expires the following April, and the seat will be up for election with the expired three-year seats.

The Committee has a regular meeting schedule of the second Wednesday of every month. Additional meetings are added during the fiscal year budget and Annual Town meeting season of March – May, and as needed for Special Town Meetings, and to address other items as they arise. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted according to rules of the Open Meeting Law. As unbiased monitors of the taxpayer's money, the Committee has an obligation to monitor and make recommendations on how and where that money should and could be best spent through recommendations made to the Town at Town Meeting.

Easton residents are invited to contact a committee member with questions, comments or concerns at FinComm@easton.ma.us.

Committee:
Patrick Hellen (Chair)
Sherraine Glover-Diaz (Vice Chair)
Tim Vamosi
Michael DiPietro
Kristina DeNapoli
Kelly Ann Lamb
Brian DeNardo
Robert Jenkins
John Olsen

2021 Activity and Review

As in 2020, 2021 also provided a very different experience to town meeting and budget cycles, yet it was also a relatively calm year for the Finance Committee. While we still had a hold on our proactive outreach to various departments due to the ongoing changing nature of the State budget and town uncertainty – the net result was that a lot of the funding released both on the State and Federal level made for a very streamlined allocation, and thus a much simpler discussion across the Committee. We are looking to begin that proactive outreach this year as Town Departments should have a good handle on the new normal, and we can see if there's anything additional attention could uncover.

Our engagement still depended on regular discussions with the Town Administrator and Town Accountant, and we continued to hold regular meetings for internal discussion. Looking forward to 2022, the plan is to once again leverage our Financial Management Guidelines (Policy #52 A) adopted by the Select Board in August of 2016 to guide the Committee's oversight of the budgeting process. Those tenets are:

1. An assessment of a recommendation to see whether it will replenish and fortify reserves
2. Assessing if the recommendation will enable additional revenue for the town
3. Assessing if an action or expenditure is required to maintain or improve vital services the Town expects, and needs

As stated above, the Finance Committee makes its recommendations known at Town Meeting. To allow for visibility into how those recommendations are made, all the Committee's meetings are televised on ECAT. Airing and recording the meetings supports a transparent process of inquiry, deliberation, and decision-making. We encourage open debate during our meetings and ensure that all sides of a given issue are presented before a final vote is taken. Input from the community is always welcome and we encourage citizens to attend our meetings if they have a concern or question about a financial issue of importance to the Town. In 2021, that attendance was remote and via Zoom conferences, but still attracted many interested people who added their valuable questions and comments to our discourse. Hopefully as we transition into 2022, we can continue to attract people to attend, and ask questions of our members.

Members of the Committee hold seats on a variety of other committees in the Town throughout the year, including (but not limited to) Budget, Capital Planning, and Audit. Since 2017, two members of the Committee volunteered and were appointed to serve on the School Planning Committee to represent financial interests of the citizenry during the Center School repair/replacement project. The Committee also attempts to have a member in attendance (or view the recorded/broadcast) of every Select Board meeting so when matters need discussion at Finance Committee meetings, the Committee will be best prepared.

During this year's Budget development process, Covid 19 continued to present ongoing challenges – uncertainty in State Aid and its impact on our budgets, what response the Federal Government would have and how that would address on a state and town level, and the complications of a worldwide health emergency continued to be a learning experience as to how to complete the necessary financial procedures and processes with so much up in the air.

To the credit of the Town Administrator, Superintendent of Schools, and department heads, year two of a massive pandemic showed that they were able to learn on their feet the very direct lessons of the previous year and continued to serve the citizens of our town admirably with a wide variety of additional responsibilities. From the ongoing construction of the new school project to the ever-changing landscape of vaccines and mask requirements, as well as putting on many vaccine clinics – these leaders addressed all needs as they arose.

As we look forward, the problems we were addressing pre-pandemic are still there, and continue to be of great concern. The structural deficits the Town has been fighting against for years still have a possibility of increase as the unknowns of the pandemic's economic impact are still being assessed. With a special recognition of the impressive current level of Easton's reserve fund, and the ongoing priority to ensure a solid foundation for that fund – if we do find ourselves in an economic downturn, our current structural issues will once again be at the forefront of our minds. On the positive side – to have gone through the last two years of uncertainty and drastic change and to still be in good economic condition is a very large kudos to the Boards, Committees, and leadership of the Town of Easton.

The Committee would like to thank the Select Board, Connor Read, Town Administrator, Michael Blanchard, Assistant Town Administrator, Wendy Nightengale, Town Accountant, the School Committee, and Dr. Lisha Cabral, Superintendent of Schools, for their cooperation and continued civil working relationships. The Committee would like to acknowledge all the Town's department heads who make time for Committee members during the budget season to review individual budgets and for working with the Committee throughout the year whenever questions arise. The sense of collaboration and cooperation throughout the Town is applauded.

In 2021, the Committee welcomed its newest member, Kelly Lamb, and congratulated Sherraine Glover-Diaz, Michael DiPietro, and Timothy Vamosi for their successful re-election. Finally, a very large thank you to Sherraine Glover-Diaz, who took over as Vice Chair in 2021 and has worked with the Chair diligently to help with all needed duties and tasks.

To Jennifer Stacy, Jamie Stebbins, and Davis Healy, we extend a heartfelt thank you for all their dedicated work on the Finance Committee over the years. Also, congratulations to Jennifer Stacy and Jamie Stebbings, who ran successfully for Easton's Select Board. With their departures, we appointed Brian Denardo, Robert Jenkins, and John Olsen as replacements with their membership terms expiring in April of 2022. Sherraine Glover-Diaz's 1 year term is also set to expire in 2022.

Lastly, the Committee thanks Stacey Lincoln for her continued diligence and dedication as the Committee's secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hellen, Chair
Sherraine Glover-Diaz, Vice Chair

THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health is comprised of three elected members: Lynne Leblanc as Chair, Aria Zayas as Vice Chair, and member Christopher Mills.

The Board of Health is part of the Department of Health and Community Services. Under the direction of Kristin Kennedy, REHS/RS, the Board of Health is supported by Health Inspectors Mark Taylor, RHES/RS, and Timothy Meyers. The Board is also supported by Nicole Falcon, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health. Animal Inspector, Jordan Holbrook, enforces state and local bylaws, and works with the Board of Health on animal-related issues.

Public health nursing services were provided through a contract with Kristina Flanagan. Services include completing case follow ups for reportable illnesses. Our Public Health Nurse was a critical asset and plays an essential role in case management, messaging, and education.

The Board of Health along with the Department of Health and Community Services, have joined with the Easton Fire Department to implement a Community Paramedicine Program. The goal of this collaboration is to implement an effective and accessible Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program. By investing in proactive and preventative care, the program seeks to have our residents remain in the community by providing supports that limit the need for emergency care whenever possible.

In addition to the activities associated with the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, the Board of Health is required by law to perform many critical duties essential to protecting the public health. These include public health control and prevention responsibilities such as:

- Disease surveillance for reportable illnesses
- Promotion of sanitary housing units, recreational facilities, and food establishments
- Elimination of nuisances
- The protection of the environment by regulating and overseeing the proper disposition of waste (sewage and solid waste)

The Board of Health held 23 meetings in 2021. Meetings continued to be held virtually and made available to the public via ECAT and Zoom throughout 2021. Meetings included the consideration of variance requests from state and local regulations, betterment loan applications, as well as consideration of emergent Public Health concerns. In 2021 the Board of Health considered the following topics:

- Issues related Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19)
- Issues related to Arbovirus - Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Lyme, Zika and West Nile Virus (WNV).
- Beaver/Muskrat-Related Activity

The Board of Health took the following actions to help further the health of its citizens:

- Hosted Influenza Vaccine Clinics.
- Held Covid Vaccine and Covid Booster Clinics.

- Hosted Covid Testing Clinics.
- Provided education and guidance regarding Covid-19 to schools, local businesses, and residents.
- Participated in the Contact Tracing Collaborative to help schools, local businesses, and residents identify close contacts of those deemed Covid positive.
- Provided a pre-recorded educational video regarding mosquitoes and ticks for all of Easton's 4th graders.
- Distributed public notifications and reminders that provided residents with tips about how to keep themselves safe from Arbovirus-related illnesses.
- Local Upgrade Approvals were processed by staff, furthering our efforts of streamlining and expediting the issuance of Disposal Septic Construction permits.
- Micro-blading permits were reviewed and issued under Body Art Licensing.

The Board appreciates the cooperation of the various town boards and departments.

The Board continues to work closely with the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

EASTON BOARD OF HEALTH
Lynne LeBlanc, Chair
Aria Zayas, Vice Chair
Chris Mills, Member

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Department of Revenue regulations now require assessors to review assessments on a yearly basis to see if they meet the statistical criteria contained in the Massachusetts General Laws. Median assessments must be at least 90% of market value and not exceed 110% as determined by analysis of the previous year's sales. Assessments must also meet uniform criteria that show all similar properties are being assessed by the same methodology. The results of analyzing the 2020 valid or "arm's length" sales showed that residential values based on the average single-family home increased by 5%. Condos increased by 8% in value and two and three families 6%.

Prior to setting the tax rate, the assessors are responsible for putting together information to aid the Board of Selectmen in its decision concerning classification. The Selectmen make the decision on whether to have a single or split tax rate.

Real estate overvaluation applications are reviewed by the Board of Assessors. The time frame for filing an overvaluation application is from late December when the actual bill comes out through the following February 1st. A postmark on or before February 1st from the US Post Office is a timely filing. The filing time period is set in the General Laws and late applications cannot be considered. Decisions on all applications are made by the assessors within three months of the filing date. Assessors can only look at the assessed value (not taxes) to determine if abatement is warranted. Decisions of the Board of Assessors can be appealed to the Appellate Tax Board within that Board's filing period.

The office works with the Deputy Director of Health & Community Services, Financial and Veterans' Services to alert elderly and veterans to changes in the laws governing statutory exemptions.

Motor vehicle excise bill inquiries concerning abatements, place of garaging issues, and overvaluation of the vehicle are handled in this office. Staff is in constant contact with the Registry of Motor Vehicles trying to resolve issues for the taxpayers.

The Community Preservation Act Surcharge is assessed through this office and the Board processes exemptions to this surcharge.

Many reports for other departments and state agencies are generated from the assessors' data base.

The assessors' data is on the Internet. The Assessing staff is always working on upgrading the Assessing website to have more information and forms online. Exemptions and motor vehicle information are also on the website.

An interim assessment was completed this year. We review sales every year and make updates, when needed.

The 10-year re-cyclical program was started. This is a program where the assessing department must try to do a complete inspection of every property in town. The Department of Revenue verifies that this is completed before allowing the town to set a tax rate.

New septic betterments were added to tax bills.

Senior Work off staff help with mailings and filings.

A SUMMARY OF THE RECAPITULATION SHEET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 IS AS FOLLOWS:

Assessed Value of Real Estate	$ 4,040,955,700
Assessed Value of Personal Property	100,704,435
Total Assessed Value of Real & Personal Property	$ 4,141,660,135

EXPENDITURES:

Appropriations	$	95,533,786.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets & Misc. Charges		44,365.00
State & County Charges		1,183,519.00
Overlay Account		460,589.91
CPA Other Unappropriated/Reserved		398,660.00
40Q DIF Revenues		38,731.56
Total Expenditures	$	97,659,651.47

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND AVAILABLE FUNDS:

State Receipts	$	13,135,016.00
Local Receipts		7,278,567.00
Enterprise Funds		6,612,580.00
Free Cash/Other Available Funds		4,684,679.00
Community Preservation Funds		2,208,660.00
Total Receipts & Available Funds	$	33,919,502.00

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION $ 63,740,149.47

Tax Rate = 63,740,149.47 / 4,141,660,135 x 1000 = $15.39

The assessment date for fiscal year 2022 values is January 1, 2021. The Town now has 5,739 single-family homes, 1482 condominiums, 162 two-family homes and 22 three-family homes. The average single-family value for fiscal year 2022 is $ 512,400. New Growth was $707,275.

We would like to thank Brian Mandeville, who went back to the Treasurer/Collectors office full time, Ellen Weene and Robert Alford II for all their hard work. We would like to welcome Lisa Florio to the Assessor's Office, filling the position of Office Assistant. A special thank you to Maureen Call who came out of retirement to help train and fill in. We could not have finalized the year without her help.

Significant Dates for Taxpayers and Citizens regarding the Assessors' Office:

January 1st	Property Tax Assessment Date.
June 30th	Property Tax Assessment Date for building permits. The Town adopted Chapter 653 of the MA. General Laws at the Special Town Meeting in January 2004. This changed the date from January 1st to June 30th for succeeding fiscal years.
February 1st	Payment of third quarterly tax bill and deadline for accepting appeals. The only time taxpayers can appeal assessments due to overvaluation or disproportionate assessment is from the time the actual bill is mailed in December through February 1st (or the next work day if February 1st falls on a weekend.)
March 1st	Date for submission of Forms of List. This is a listing of all business personal property and must be filed every year by anyone doing business in Town. Date for submission of 3ABC forms for exempt property.
April 1st	Exemption applications for elderly (over 65), blind persons, and disabled veterans with a rating from the VA and Community Preservation Act are due. Applications are mailed in August to anyone qualifying in the previous year.
May 1st	Payment of fourth quarter tax bill.
August 1st	Payment of the 1st preliminary tax bill. Preliminary bills are based on at least one quarter of the taxes from the previous fiscal year. If significant changes have taken place such as subdivision of land or new construction taxes will be estimated accordingly. New construction will be based on whatever is complete on the previous June 30th.
October 1st	Date for submission of Chapter land applications.
November 1st	Payment of the 2nd preliminary tax bill.
December	Setting of the tax rate and mailing of the third quarter bill that is the actual tax bill for the current fiscal year.

Telephone number for questions or information: 508-230-0520

MICHAEL MCKENNA, Chairman
RAYMEN MORRELL Vice-Chairman
SCOTT TIMULTY, Clerk

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The School Committee is pleased to submit the following report to the citizens of Easton.

In her fifth year as Superintendent, Dr. Lisha Cabral, alongside Assistant Superintendent Christine Pruitt and the Administrative Team, continue to use and follow the District Strategic Plan. The Strategic Objectives include Student Achievement, Student and Educator Wellness, Curriculum Development, and Educator Excellence.

The school year 2020-2021 again brought challenges to the district due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continued throughout all of the 2021 calendar year. The District and the Easton School Committee continue their mission to deliver our students the best possible opportunities to learn in these unprecedented times.

This calendar year 2021 began under the same hybrid model of instruction introduced in the fall of 2020 to accommodate maintaining a distance of 3-6 feet between students at all times. To accommodate this spacing, half of students attended school in-person for two days a week in a shortened schedule, returned home for a late lunch period, and resumed remote learning for the remainder of the school day. On days that students were not part of the in-person schedule, students attended classes via livestream instruction, fully interacting with their teachers and peers who were in the classroom. All students worked remotely on Wednesdays. Some highest need students received in-person learning 4 days per week and some families opted for their children to learn 100% remotely. The district implemented layered safety measures such as distancing, universal masking, increased cleaning and disinfection, increased ventilation, the use of air purifiers in all classrooms, post-travel testing requirements and extensive contact tracing and quarantine protocols to reduce the risk of virus spread in school. Free “grab and go” lunches were made available to all students, and most normal school activities, field trips, etc. did not run, although to start the school year, the Sheep Pasture program and some fall sports ran with modifications, and musical ensembles learned and practiced together with modifications as well.

There were 3,484 students enrolled in the Easton Public Schools as of January 1, 2021. The post-holiday period in January saw a spike in COVID-19 infections that greatly increased student and staff absences due to illness and quarantines. From December 31 to February 3, there were 121 reported cases among EPS staff and students. Many of the normal activities that greatly enrich the educational experience and lives of our students and the community did not occur. Education during the pandemic in the hybrid model delivered the best educational experience possible while maintaining a safe distance, and the model met more rigorous Structured Learning Time requirements that were defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“DESE”) in early 2021. That said, this model was extraordinarily challenging to everyone involved, from staff to students to families, who collectively worked harder than ever to make the best of this difficult situation. Throughout 2021, the School Committee took guidance from Easton Department of Public Health, Board of Health, DESE, and the CDC in determining how to best meet the needs of students, families, staff and the broader community during this time, responding to changes in the virus’ activity as well as various guidelines, recommendations, and requirements. In March of 2021, the District and School Committee announced plans to shift back to full in-person learning by the end of April, in alignment with new DESE mandates. EPS finished the 2020-2021 school year in this model, with the previously listed layers of mitigation in place but with only 3-ft distancing between students.

As staff and older students became eligible for vaccines and case counts went down, the spring of 2021 saw the return of some pre-COVID activities. Among the highlights were that the senior class enjoyed an outdoor prom at Muscato Stadium, and graduation was held outdoors at Oliver Ames High School on the first Saturday in June.

In spite of all of the challenges the pandemic continues to present to EPS, there was much to celebrate last year. The district was able to move ahead with many exciting initiatives. EPS was able to use funding from ESSER 2 funds and summer school grant to launch a very successful summer learning program called SEA (Summer Enrichment Academy) for students in grades K-8 as well as a credit recovery program at OA. Assistant Superintendent Crissy Pruitt oversaw the program, which served more than 300 students. Feedback from students and families indicates that the program was engaging and fun from a student perspective while evaluations showed that the program achieved its academic goals for students. The district plans to hold the program again in 2022 using COVID-related funding intended to support student achievement. EPS became a charter member of the newly formed South Shore Consortium, joining with other area schools in entering into articulation agreements with various public and private post-secondary educational institutions to offer early college and career readiness educational opportunities for OA students. Courses for credit will begin in the summer of 2022.

Athletics resumed under modified conditions at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. For much of the year, student athletes practiced and played while wearing masks and maintaining distance where possible, with spectatorship limited. Athletic Director Bill Matthews and his staff worked tirelessly to communicate changing protocols, manage quarantines and gradual-return-to-play plans for dozens of athletes, and reschedule countless games and practices. OA was able to run every sport at all levels for the year in spite of these challenges. Football, volleyball and winter track were moved to a newly created “Fall 2 Wedge” season that took place from late February to late April, and the competitive cheer and wrestling seasons were moved to spring. Hockomock Divisional championships were won by field hockey, boys soccer, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys basketball, girls basketball, girls swim & dive and baseball. OA won the Muscato Davenport award, an award for the school that has the highest average finish across all sports during the entire year, and boys lacrosse and girls tennis were recognized for sportsmanship in the league. The OA Lacrosse team was recognized by MIAA for participating in the MIAA Community Service Challenge. The team raised more than $2500 by doing yard work in the spring and donated all funds raised to AJ’s Army, a fund established to support injured Bishop Feehan hockey player AJ Quetta.

The 2020-2021 school year presented the music department with many unique challenges, although the department was able to maintain a high quality level of music instruction while adapting to COVID as best they could. As the year progressed and restrictions eased, our halls, music classrooms, and auditoriums were once again filled with the joyous sounds of students singing, dancing, and playing instruments. We saw the return of the winter concerts, festivals, and competitions. Several students were accepted into the Sr. District Festival by extremely competitive auditions with over 95 Southeastern Massachusetts Communities. One OA Student, Michael Gold, was also accepted into the Massachusetts All State Concert Band. Several additional students were accepted into SEMSBA Festival (The Southeast Massachusetts School Band Master's Association) through competitive auditions. The OA Marching Band returned with an amazing competition year and a win at NESBA Finals to become the New England Division IV Champions, OAMB's first championship in a decade. EMS saw the return of Mrs. Kristy Foye to the department teaching band and orchestra after two years teaching in the Lexington Public Schools. Niki Miragliotta started working with EMS Chorus in December 2020, coming to EMS from working as a program director with the San Diego Children's Choir. At Center School and Moreau Hall, all grades participated in three weeks of virtual Meet the Instrument classes with Navy Band musicians (April and May). Richardson Olmsted 4th grade instrument classes and 5th grade band, orchestra, and chorus putting together an online album of music from our RO musicians to share with their families.

Jacqueline Weisman was reelected to the School Committee on April 24, 2021 and the Committee was reorganized. Michelle Durrance was voted Chair of the Committee and Jennifer Starr was voted Vice Chair. Nancy DeLuca and Caroline O'Neill are also current members of the Committee. In keeping with a statewide executive order allowing for virtual meetings, all School Committee meetings in 2021 were conducted remotely using Zoom, with live streaming provided by Easton Community Access Television (ECAT) via Facebook Live or YouTube in addition to the regular cable broadcast. This greatly increased public viewership and participation in our meetings, with several meetings having more than 75 participants and one meeting having more than 450 between Zoom and the live stream.

Oliver Ames High School principal Wes Paul announced that he would be retiring after the end of the 2021 school year after 22 years as the principal of OA. A search committee made up of representatives from administration, staff, the School Committee and the community launched an extensive search for his replacement, which resulted in the hiring of Kelly Cavanaugh, formerly an assistant principal in Canton, as the new Oliver Ames High School principal. There were seventeen retirements from EPS staff during the 2020-2021 school year. Lynn Athanasiou, Sandy Bourne, Donna Davey, Kathleen Fowler, Doreen Graff, Cindy Hall, Russell Hill, Judith Josephs, Carol Kelly, Monica Lawson, Cindy Lehan, Vera Miller, Ann Nicholaides, Patrick Riley, Erica Sade, Steve Shores, and Karen Silverstein. The School Committee congratulates these retirees and wishes them the best.

The Professional Status Reception was held virtually on October 14, 2021. The recipients were Adriana Johnson from Center School; Danielle Wintersteen from Parkview School; Amanda Bray, Ashley Chesworth, and Victoria Cleaver from Richardson Olmsted School; Nancy Cochrane, Laura Daley, Zachary Dyer, Christine Hochstein, Nicole Kelley, Michaela Lauture, and Hannah Walsh from Easton Middle School; and Tanner Kranich and Justin Tienhaara from Oliver Ames High School. These teachers have received professional status after completing three years of teaching in Easton and being thoughtfully recommended by their principals.

The School Committee is incredibly grateful for the generous donations made to the District in 2021. Target donated books for grades PK-8 that focused on Black History Month. The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance donated $500 to the Easton Middle School for STEM programs. Senior Haley Cuthbert donated $2,000 raised by her senior project, "The Puzzle Piece Project," to be used to purchase sensory integration materials for classrooms. The Wes Paul Naming Project donated $22,000 to name the

Main Office Complex at OA and the Class of 2021 donated $1,000 to name the Northwest Entry at OA in honor of retiring OA principal Wes Paul. A plaque was approved to be placed at the Richardson Olmsted School in memory of student Linley Menard. The EMS art department received a donation from Blueview Nurseries Inc. in Norton for $2,000 and from Advanced Technology Innovation Corporation in Wrentham for $1,500 as well as an anonymous donation for $2,500. OA 9th grade students Caitlin Peloquin and Ella Calisi donated clothing to the EMS health office and signage regarding the disposal and access of feminine health products to the EMS girls' restrooms as part of the Girl Scout Silver Award Project for Troop 80538.

The budget continues to be a challenge but state and federal funding related to the pandemic has offered some relief. The FY22 operating budget of $43,917,645 approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 17, 2021 was a 2.634% increase over the previous year's budget. This increase allowed the district to restore some positions that had been cut from previous budgets and move towards some long-term goals such as free full-day Kindergarten by shifting an increased portion of the Kindergarten salaries into the operating budget.

Easton voters approved a Capital Budget of $345,000 to the School Department at the Annual Town Meeting and an additional $284,612 at the Special Town Meeting on November 8, 2021. Money was approved for repairing a leak at the fitness center, improving school entrance security, computers and technology. Additionally, $200,000 was transferred to the Special Education Reserve Fund.

There were several milestones in The Blanche A. Ames Elementary School Project in 2021. The MSBA submission of design documents at 90% occurred in late 2020 and the project moved into the construction bid phase in late 2020- early 2021. There was some concern that supply chain disruptions associated with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic could impact the construction costs of the project. However, all bids came in significantly below the estimated construction budget of $74,886,581. In early March the School Planning Committee voted to award the contract to Brait Builders and recommended that the Select Board execute the same. Construction kick off meetings and work at the site began in mid-March. Two significant ceremonial activities occurred in 2021. In April, the Project Team hosted the groundbreaking ceremony and in August the last beam of steel was raised and commemorated in the topping off ceremony. Construction through the Fall and Winter of 2021 continued on schedule. Cash flow, project costs, construction costs, contingency use, and MSBA reimbursement are all within schedule parameters. Dr. Cabral announced the leadership for the new Blanche A. Ames elementary school and transition planning is underway in anticipation of the student occupancy and door opening in January of 2023.

The School Department Administration Offices are located at 50 Oliver Street, North Easton. The main phone number is 508-230-3200. The District website is www.easton.k12.ma.us. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

On behalf of all the students in the District, we thank the townspeople of Easton for their support and look forward to serving our children together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Durrance, Chair	Jennifer Starr, Vice Chair
Nancy De Luca	Caroline O'Neill
Jacqueline Weisman	

2020-2021 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT OF EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Introduction

As the Superintendent of the Easton Public Schools, it is an honor to submit this Annual Report for the 2020-2021 academic year. The District is proud of its many accomplishments, particularly toward attaining the goals outlined in the 2018-2023 District Strategic Plan. Significant gains across the district were made in all four Strategic Objectives. These include:

Student Achievement: All of our students will demonstrate optimal growth through equitable access to programs and opportunities that meet their individual needs.
Student and Educator Wellness: We will provide a safe and supportive environment that will improve the social, emotional and physical well-being of students and staff to promote academic, professional and personal success.
Curriculum Development: We will develop rigorous curricula with high-quality assessments to enhance student centered, personalized, and self-directed learning.
Educator Excellence: We will recruit, develop and continuously support high quality educators who are exemplars of best practice, collaboration, and investment in the whole child.

The **District Strategic Plan** also includes:

Vision: The vision of EPS is to provide a relevant, rigorous learning experience in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment which empowers students and educators to embrace curiosity, think critically, develop positive relationships, and exhibit resilience.

Theory of Action: ***If*** EPS provides a safe and supportive environment in which all students are engaged with a rigorous and relevant curriculum that meets the unique needs of each student provided by educators who are highly qualified and well-trained ***then*** students will demonstrate the skills to become well-adjusted, successful, and contributing members of society.

Strategic Objectives:

Student Achievement: We will provide opportunities and equitable access to programs that meet all students' individual needs so that they will demonstrate optimal growth.
Student and Educator Wellness: We will provide a safe and supportive environment that will improve the social, emotional and physical well-being of students and staff to promote academic, professional and personal success.
Curriculum Development: We will develop rigorous curricula with high-quality assessments to enhance student centered, personalized, and self-directed learning.
Educator Excellence: We will recruit, develop and continuously support high quality educators who are exemplars of best practice, collaboration, and investment in the whole child.

Core Values (and Beliefs):

Students are at the center of our decision making; therefore, we value:

Continuous Growth

- We hold high expectations for ourselves and others
- We know that learning never ends
- We understand that valuable learning can come from mistakes or failure
- We must persevere to reach our goals

Safety and Respect

- We deserve the safest and most supportive learning environment
- We respect the safety and boundaries of others
- We are diverse learners, and all learners can thrive
- We embrace and honor our differences with empathy and understanding

Communication and Collaboration

- We clearly communicate our questions and concerns
- We share our views with respect and with the appropriate source
- We know teamwork is not always easy, but it is worth the effort
- We have a collective responsibility for the education of all children

Leading by Example

- We understand that others are watching and learning from us
- We are all models of integrity and respect
- We are accountable for our own actions and decisions
- We value what we can learn from others

Foundational Transfer Goals

All graduates of the Easton Public Schools will be able to independently use their learning to:

Demonstrate Character

Build positive relationships and make responsible choices that are physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually sound.

Exhibit Resilience

Persevere when facing challenges and taking risks.

Communicate & Collaborate

Express ideas in a variety of ways and work responsibly with others.

Embrace Curiosity

Investigate to seek knowledge and truth.

Engage Locally & Globally

Act with respect, empathy and responsibility in a local and global community.

Think Critically & Innovate

Generate new ideas, make informed decisions, draw conclusions, and solve problems.

Statistical Information

During the 2020-2021 school year, we had 3,410 students enrolled. Of that population, 1,740 were male and 1,670 were female. Students with special needs represented 19.2%, and 1.5% were identified as English Learners (EL). Of Oliver Ames graduates, 40.9% planned to attend private colleges/universities, 38%, state colleges/universities, 8.7% planned to attend 2-year college programs, 5.4% planned to work, and 1.1% planned to join the military. Two different state assessments were given to students in grades 3-12 throughout the Commonwealth. Students in grade 10 participated in the Next Generation MCAS for English Language Arts and Math. Students in grade 10 did not participate in the MCAS assessment for Science due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students in grades 3-8 participated in the Next Generation MCAS in English Language Arts and Math. Students in grades 5 and 8 participated in the Next Generation MCAS in Science.

Next Generation MCAS- Grade 10

2021	**% Exceeding Expectations**		**% Meeting Expectations**		**% Partially Meeting Expectations**		**% Not Meeting Expectations**	
	Easton	State	Easton	State	Easton	State	Easton	State
English Language Arts	25	19	48	45	23	27	5	9
Math	15	11	53	41	29	36	4	12

Next Generation MCAS- Grade 3- Grade 8

2021	**% Exceeding Expectations**		**% Meeting Expectations**		**% Partially Meeting Expectations**		**% Not Meeting Expectations**	
	Easton	State	Easton	State	Easton	State	Easton	State
English Language Arts	10	8	48	38	35	38	7	16
Math	6	5	43	29	43	45	9	22
Science	10	7	45	34	39	41	6	17

Professional Development

Professional educators rely on continual training to stay current in their practice. Easton Public Schools encourages this mindset and has placed great emphasis on ensuring that this work remains a top priority. It is important to provide time to collaborate with colleagues within the district as well as outside the district to remain abreast of the latest research and best practices within education. In fact, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education mandates evidence of high quality professional development for all educators.

This year, more than ever, the Easton Public Schools relied heavily on professional development due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two extremely successful full day professional development days were held with an emphasis on what was occurring in the world around them. The first day focused on redesigning instruction during the pandemic and was entitled "Planning for Learning during a Global Pandemic." During the day, educators shared best practices on hybrid teaching and learning through an Ed Camp model. In this model, educators were able to dig deeper into their practice by focusing on a key question. Educators were also provided sessions on updated technology to assist with hybrid learning. The second professional development day was focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and was entitled "Diversity and Inclusion for All". All staff attended two specific workshops. The first was entitled "A Walk in My Shoes" and was formulated with the support of Raising Multicultural Kids. During the session three members of the Easton community shared what it is like to navigate life in Easton as a person of color. The second session was provided by MA Safe Schools and was entitled "Promoting Resilience and Healthy Outcomes for LGBTQ+ Students". The session focused on policies, best practices and resources for supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) students and families, with a focus on transgender and gender diverse youth.

Easton University is in its eighth year of implementation. Course offerings are put out four times a year for all staff. This internal professional development program provides graduate level courses, workshops, seminars, book studies, film screenings, and more that allow teachers and other staff to work collaboratively and primarily within the district to improve their understandings, share their best practices, and hone their craft. Each offering is designed to align with the goals identified in the District and individual School Improvement Plans. They are convenient for staff, less expensive than individual, off-campus sessions, and free to all personnel.

Along with Easton University, Easton Community University was offered for the sixth year. This program provides educational opportunities for parents and community members on topics that range from understanding the implications of Vaping to understanding Google and more. It is important to the district that it provides quality opportunities for community partners. This is reflected under the goal of Family and Community Engagement in the District Strategic Plan.

Easton Public Schools continues to find importance in using the "train the trainer" model. This model is used to build capacity and knowledge within our own staff while educating their peers through replication of what was learned. This model also allows the district to then have on-staff instructors available for multiple trainings over time. Having the instructor in-district also allows for a higher quality of implementation as well as built-in supports are present should any staff member have difficulty with implementation or require further support. This form of training provides lasting opportunities for learning and growth at a far more affordable cost to the district.

Facilities
Work continues with the School Planning Committee and the construction team on the new Blanche A. Ames Pk-2 elementary school building project. School administrators and town staff participate in weekly tours hosted by PMA Consultants to observe the progress being made on the new building. It is anticipated that over the summer the Town and school maintenance staff will participate in commissioning of mechanical systems and the building envelope and training at the new school. The estimated completion of the new school is January 2023.

Several projects were completed in the Easton Public Schools' facilities, and continued preventative maintenance was completed. Among the larger projects were at Oliver Ames High School: completion of a new athletic practice field and the repair of the siding above the Fitness Center, and replacement of several roof top units for heating and ventilation; Easton Middle School: installed a new commercial size dish-washing machine and replaced the grease trap in the the kitchen; Richardson Olmsted: replaced several classroom carpets and installed new rooftop units to improve ventilation.

The following maintenance was also completed at each school: performed inspections and preventative maintenance on all eye-wash stations, performed preventative maintenance on all mechanical systems, repaired and replaced custodial cleaning equipment, inspected and repaired gym equipment, inspected and repaired fire suppression systems, performed preventive maintenance on elevators and lifts, updated Integrated Pest Management Plans and performed monthly pest inspections, inspected and repaired school boilers and generators, performed preventative maintenance on the energy management system, and inspected and cleaned kitchen hoods.

In addition, the school crossing guards transitioned from the Easton Police Department to the school department. This resulted in better communication between the crossing guards and school administration and the ability to hire new substitute crossing guards.

Special Services Department

The Special Services Department is composed of coordinators, special education teachers, nurses, psychologists, counselors, related services staff, and paraprofessionals. Staff members work as an interdisciplinary team with administration and general educators to understand and provide for the individual needs of students.

The department oversees the provision of special education for approximately 700 students aged 3-21, 504 Accommodation Plans for approximately 260 students, and health plans for any student who requires this as a result of medical needs. Federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that, to the maximum extent possible, students with disabilities are educated with non-disabled peers and have equal access to activities and programs. The district is committed to providing a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment to eligible students. The goal of special education is to ensure that specific, targeted interventions and specially designed instruction that is directly related to the child's disability are provided so that students can access the general education curriculum and make effective progress toward IEP goals. 504 plans provide appropriate accommodations that will allow students to access the general education curriculum.

Over time, the district has enhanced and developed programs and staffing that supports a wide range of students' needs. An important goal is to help students develop skills that will minimize the impact of the disability and allow them to be educated in the least restrictive environment.

The current Special Education district-wide programs are:

- Foundations Program grades PK-12+
- Language Based Program Grades 3-12
- Therapeutic Learning Center Grades K-8 and Bridge Program grades 9-12
- Skills Program Grades K-5 and 6-12+

Theresa Skinner, Director of Student Services; tskinner@easton.k12.ma.us

PK - 2 Center, Moreau Hall & Parkview

The three Easton primary schools, Center, Moreau Hall and Parkview serve our youngest learners from Preschool through grade 2. Our school leadership works collaboratively to ensure every student and family has a consistent educational experience. Our shared School Improvement Plan has common goals and action steps that promote the pillars of our school district's strategic plan: Student Achievement, Student and Educator Wellness, Curriculum Development, and Educator Excellence.

In March 2020, we faced the abrupt, unanticipated school closure due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Overnight, teachers, staff and families were forced to shift from traditional schooling to remote learning. We were unprepared and ill-equipped for this task. Therefore, all energies and resources were directed to the unprecedented challenges of our educational system for the remainder of the school year. As the COVID-19 Pandemic continued throughout the summer of 2020, EPS dedicated endless hours and efforts toward preparing for the 2020-2021 school year. A comprehensive School Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 school year was created and implemented in August 2020. The Reopening Plan included descriptions of a phased opening, learning model options, meeting the needs of our high needs students as well as health and safety principles, objectives and protocols.

In phase 2 of the Reopening Plan, all educational staff returned to their schools with safety protocols in place. Following the Introductory Day, all staff participated in ten days of professional development specifically designed to prepare them for teaching in the hybrid model. All students were given the option to attend school in the hybrid model or the fully remote model. The hybrid model consisted of a combination of in-person and remote learning in which the teacher would provide both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Students attended school in-person for two days of the week and participated in remote learning for three days of the week. Classes were divided into two cohorts in order to decrease the number of students in each classroom at one time. In Phase 3, when students started school in mid-September 2020, the PK-2 teachers and staff provided synchronous instruction to all students. Students working from home joined their class through Google Meet. Teachers adeptly worked with both in-person and remote students at the same time. Classrooms were set up to accommodate social distancing. Each student and staff member had a Chromebook to participate in classroom lessons and activities, collaborate electronically on projects and assignments without having to be physically close to each other as well as utilize electronic submissions of work to limit materials used in classes. Each classroom had a facilitator who assisted with the management of the students online. This allowed teachers to conduct the lesson while the facilitator supervised Google Meets to monitor the students at home for questions, clarifications as well as to assist with technology issues.

By April 2021, EPS had gradually increased to full in-person instruction with safety protocols remaining in place. At this point, students were also able to opt for a full remote model for the remainder of the school year. Based on remote enrollment, a remote class was created at each grade level from K-2. Throughout the school year, teachers, staff and parents also brainstormed ways to modify traditional school activities and enrichment experiences to support students' social development and maintain a positive school community. Principals hosted virtual story hours and bingo nights as well as recorded morning announcements. To focus on addressing the increased social/emotional needs of our students, The Social Emotional Learning program, Second Step was implemented in all K-2 classrooms.

It is important to note that the EPS staff's dedication, flexibility and willingness to do whatever was necessary for our students, families and school communities during this incredibly challenging school year was remarkable. They rose to the challenge of meeting the needs of students both virtually and in-person during a worldwide pandemic often prioritizing their students over their own families. They demonstrated amazing commitment to our schools and community as a whole and should be commended for it.

Richardson Olmsted School

The Richardson Olmsted School (RO) pROudly serves Easton students in Grades 3 - 5, striving to provide all students with a welcoming, safe, rigorous learning environment to learn, play and grow. The current enrollment of RO is 752 students, with eleven classrooms per grade level. Our school actively works to include all students of all backgrounds and abilities into our classrooms and that requires a growth mindset for all as well as an 'all hands on deck' approach to working with students. The heart of our school is in our classrooms and it is our teachers that work collaboratively and tirelessly all year to meet the diverse needs of our students.

As one school within our school system, we work with the core values of our district as our foundation: Leading by Example, Collaboration and Communication, Safety and Respect and Continuous Growth. As a district, we have developed a strategic plan that keeps our work PreK-12 continuous and targeted. This district level work allows our school to more confidently set goals and action plans that we know will continue after our students leave RO to the Middle School and Oliver Ames. In the coming years, RO looks forward to aligning our work and goals with the new PreK-2 Blanche Ames Elementary School, again building upon the foundation provided by our district's strategic plan and core values.

One of the goals we are working on as a school is to implement a Positive Behavior System throughout the school. This has included working with our students to create an RO Constitution that clearly states four agreements that we make as a school community to help ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment for all. Given the immense challenges that this pandemic has posed for our students, we understand how important clarity, structure, consistency and predictability are for our young students. Our students need all of their teachers and adults in their life to be on the same page, with shared expectations and language to help support and guide them as they grow. Our RO Constitution provides this clarity for our students and we continually reinforce positive behaviors with our students through “pROud paws” that are given to students making positive choices, through our Citizens of the Month Program, through our daily morning announcements and through pROud calls home.

Our school is also working to take action steps to ensure that our diversity is recognized, celebrated and respected. We do begin everyday with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and are reminded that ‘E Pluribus Unum’ has been a foundational belief of our country since its creation - out of many, one. Part of this work is making sure that all of our students are represented in the books and publications we read everyday at RO. Raising Multicultural Kids (RMK) has worked with many of our staff to put more diverse book choices into our classrooms. We are all different. We all have different abilities and backgrounds. This makes us beautiful and interesting. It is important to our students that they see themselves and their families in the books they read at school and that we use this literature as a springboard to share our own stories and build empathy and support through listening and learning.

RO is pROud to be one, united school and honored to support the families of Easton in the collective endeavor of raising our future generations. If any resident has any questions, concerns or ideas to share with RO, please contact the principal of Richardson Olmsted School, Chris Getchell at cgetchell@easton.k12.ma.us.

Easton Middle School

Our mission at EMS is to recognize the unique needs of the middle school student, while providing a safe and respectful learning environment that inspires students to “Make Their Mark.” Our core values encourage students to leave their “pawprint” of excellence within the school community, while emphasizing that learning is not fixed, but rather an ability that each student can improve through effort and perseverance.

To help us achieve our goal and meet the ever increasing needs of our students, the word “virtual" took on a new meaning. On Friday, March 13th, 2020 our school year and lives were forever altered by Covid 19, and the pandemic continued into the 2020-2021 school year. With much planning and hard work over the summer of 2020 the entire school community of students were divided into Cohort A and Cohort B. We reorganized our teaming model in all three grades, to include Unified Arts and Foreign Language classes on a team, and we implemented a static six period schedule that would remain the same each day. The teaming model would provide the best developmentally appropriate experience for our middle school students, with five smaller pods on each team allowing our priority to be the health and safety of our school community. Traditionally, relationships between staff and students are created at the beginning of a school year. There was a strong emphasis placed on relationships and social/emotional well-being in the first few weeks of school and in the daily FOCUS period at the beginning of the 2020 school year.

As students, parents, and teachers adapted to this new way of life we worked hard to stay connected with each other. To keep important communicative measures with the community in place, "Back to School Nights", opening day building tours, parent conferences, music lessons, student clubs, special ceremonies, and Google meets, were all conducted virtually.

To keep students and staff safe during this time "social distancing" was implemented. All desks in the classrooms at EMS are separated by six feet. The desks and the floor were marked to identify the six feet. Students faced the same direction in each class. Excess furniture was removed from each class and was stored in temporary storage containers located at each school. Each area was then assessed for maximum occupancy. Students were assigned to their area during their Cohort attendance. Other spaces throughout the building were utilized as necessary, including outdoor spaces whenever possible. Movement around the building was very controlled and one way that we are able to provide six foot social distancing and separations throughout the building was through an adapted schedule and the splitting of all students into smaller cohorts. Students were given assigned seats in each class, those seats were cleaned with soap and water/disinfectant wipes between each use; hallways, entrances, exits, etc. were carefully labeled as "one way" or specifically directional to reduce the number of students in any area at a given time.

By April 2021, students were slowly being allowed to return to full in-person classes with all the same safety precautions that had been implemented at the beginning of the school year. Students were now able to interact with other students in their classes that they had only seen previously on Google meets.

During the 2020-2021 school year, despite hardships, 72 students were recognized as EMS "Students of the Month," each having "Made Their Mark" of excellence, embodying the EMS core values. This special honor is given monthly to a boy and a girl from each team. The National Junior Honor Society welcomed 96 new members into the organization, and these students undertook a number of individualized community service projects. The ceremony for the Honor Society students was held virtually and slides showing their achievements were shared with families and staff. The Student Council took on a different approach to a community activity by inviting the entire town to a drive through "Night of Lights" and a "Winter Wonderland". The Easton Middle School continues to seek new ways to encourage our students' successful accomplishments.

Oliver Ames High School

Art Department

The Art Department is committed to providing an effective K-12 program that fosters the development of artistic literacy and intent. Students are provided the opportunity to experience different media, think creatively, solve visual problems, respond to works of art, and communicate with their peers. The arts address the full spectrum of multiple intelligences and provide students with innovative connections to their world and life. These disciplines challenge students' perceptions and teach students to look at their world past, present, and the future in both functional and aesthetic manners. The Art Department encourages connections with other disciplines along with the societal, historical, cultural influences and impact in the world. Students are encouraged to submit their work in local, regional, and national competitions. These competitions allow students to not only connect with their community individually, but they also give them a chance to give back and share their hard work.

Art Awards

Alliance for Young Artists and Writers Scholastic Art Competition:

In January of 2021, 15 pieces were recognized by Massachusetts and awarded in the competition with 5 gold keys, 4 silver keys and 6 honorable mentions. These awards are the highest honor received by high school artists in the state of Massachusetts. Regional gold key works compete at the national level for national gold, silver and honorable mention. Over 300,000 works of art were submitted and less than 1 % were recognized nationally. Oliver Ames received 1 national silver key.

Massachusetts Gold Key Recipients

- Abigail DeFrancesco (2)
- Aeden Marcus
- Tatum Perry
- Hannah Treiber

National Silver Key Recipient

- Tatum Perry

22ns Annual Congressional Art Competition for the 4th District

Oliver Ames students placed in the following categories:

Best in Show

- Aeden Marcus

Drawing Category

- 1st Place, Tatum Perry

Massachusetts Art Educators Association "Amazing Emerging Artists" High School Recognitions Juried Exhibit

OA Students recognized as "Amazing Emerging Artists":

- Emily Dionne
- Samantha Keefe
- Aeden Marcus
- Emma Lawson
- Tatum Perry

Award Recipients

- Samantha Keeffe – "Best in Show" Davis Publications Award ($500)
- Emily Dionne – Worcester Art Museum Award ($200)
- Emma Lawson – MAEA Art Educator Award ($50)
- Aeden Marcus – Davis Publications Media Category Award ($25)

Class of 2021 Recipients of the Art Department Book Awards:

- Eva DiSanto
- Samantha Keefe
- Emma Lawson
- Christina Mathers

Art Exhibits, Special Events and Important Information

- Massachusetts Art Educators Association named Kristyn Shea Secondary Art Educator of the Year 2021 in September of 2020
- Kristyn Shea was a supervising practitioner for a student teacher from UMass, Amherst at Oliver Ames High School January-March of 2021

- Kristen Kelley was a supervising practitioner for a student teacher from UMass, Amherst at Easton Middle School March-May of 2021
- Elementary art students participated in the square 1 art fundraiser in January/February of 2021
- Oliver Ames Art levels 2, 3, and 4 exhibited at the Artists Studio and Gallery at Patriots Place at Foxboro in May 2021
- The Oliver Ames Annual Art Show was converted to a virtual art show due to COVID-19 entitled "Can't Touch This" and went public on June 7, 2021.
- 8 OA senior students from the Art 4 Advanced Studio course donated one piece of artwork each to the OA Alumni Gallery in June 2021. They are: Eva DiSanto, Samantha Keefe, Emma Lawson, Aeden Marcus, Christina Mathers, Jared Mileika, Heather Morecock, and Madeleine Taylor.

It is important to note that due to COVID-19, many K-12 planned annual events and competitions were not offered or able to be held.

Contact Art Department Chair, Kristyn Shea, for any further information

Athletic Department

Responsibilities: The athletic department oversees the scheduling and management of all interscholastic team sports at Oliver Ames High School and Easton Middle School. The department is headed by Bill Matthews, Athletic Director, and his assistant, Mary Flavin. Additionally the department handles usage and rental requests for athletic facilities from non-school entities. The athletic department works closely with the Department of Public Works to maintain EPS athletic facilities.

Coaching Staff: The coaching staff consists of twenty-nine varsity head coaches, thirty-eight assistant coaches and fifty-three volunteer coaches.

Summary: 2020-21 was the year of COVID-19. After the spring 2020 season was canceled due to COVID, and with the fall season approaching, we were uncertain if we would be allowed to offer interscholastic athletics, and if we were allowed, what would they look like. With a great deal of creativity, cooperation from fellow athletic directors and support from the district, we fielded every single high school sport at all levels. Mask wearing, social distancing, cohorts, close contact tracing, sport modifications. a newly created "wedge" season and spectator limits were all part of the new landscape. Football, volleyball, fall cheer, winter cheer, indoor track and wrestling were all moved to later seasons in order to accommodate COVID restrictions. OA fielded 29 varsity teams, 24 JV teams and 6 freshman teams this past year.

Schedule: With the exception of the spring season, schedules were reduced to Hockomock Davenport Division opponents only and MIAA postseason tournaments were canceled.

Participation: In spite of COVID concerns, 671 high school students participated in at least one athletic activity during the year.representing 58% of the high school student population. Participation across the all four seasons totaled 1176 team members. As a first in modern history and as a result of the creation of the "wedge" season, 22 OA students became "four-sport athletes".

Team Achievements: Hockomock Davenport Division Championships were won by boys & girls cross country, boys soccer, field hockey, boys & girls basketball, girls swim and baseball. The cross country teams also won their respective Hockomock Cross Country League Championship meets.

Honors: 65 OA athletes were selected as Hockomock All Stars with 7 MVP selections which included Kyle Sarney (XC, indoor track, spring track), Colin Milliken (soccer), Amari Brown (basketball), Emma Pereira (hockey) and Sam Streton (swim). Hockomock Davenport Division championships were won by field hockey, boys soccer, boys & girls cross county, boys & girls basketball, girls swim and baseball. John Barata, OA boys head varsity soccer coach, was named the MIAA Coach of the Year.

Facilities: The softball field on the OA campus underwent a major renovation with new infield material, repaired fencing and added dugouts to make it a suitable venue for varsity softball. The grass area of the expanded multi-use practice field south of the stadium was finished and seeded to prepare it for fall 2021 usage.

Business Technology/Family Consumer Science /Industrial Arts Departments

The COVID year and our hybrid learning environment changed the manner in which we delivered instruction in our project-based courses. Utilizing a variety of online platforms and recreating lesson plans, each of the department's faculty members found new and creative ways to engage our students and to provide experiential learning activities in new and creative ways.

Working with our Media I and II students, Steve Souza, our Media teacher developed a weekly news program entitled *Tiger Talk.* In an effort to keep the entire OA community connected, *Tiger Talk* episodes recognized all the great activities and events that were happening in our non-traditional school year. Media students also participated in the NASA HUNCH video challenge with students Eva DiSanto, Sawyer Haverly and Dean DeMarino winning first place accolades. OA DECA students learned that they could shine, even in a virtual competition. While we had fewer than the usual number of participants, we had success at both the district and state levels and five students - Kathleen Truong, Brad Washburne, Jack Muir, Michael Gold and Jared Goldman - all qualified and competed in the virtual International Career Development Conference. Working with North Easton Savings Bank, our Finance and Entrepreneurship classes piloted a virtual credit fair and with support from Bank of Easton, we continued to use the Ever-Fi simulation to enhance our students' financial literacy skills. Our Internship students created their own individualized career-based projects and career professionals from a variety of fields participated in interviews in which they shared their career journeys and experiences with our students. Eva DiSanto and Jake Welz received the Business Department book awards at class night in May.

Betti Almedia, Family and Consumer Science teacher, continued her partnership with NASA HUNCH and our students were able to participate in the construction of cargo transfer bags used by NASA astronauts. We offered our first year of the new Child Development Course designed for students who have an interest in careers working with children. The focus of the course is to teach students how to meet children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs in their homes and classrooms. Our Foods classes modeled themselves after the Food Network by offering teacher-instructed and student-led cooking demonstrations. More focus was spent on the cultural origins of foods and students completed projects that examined how food shaped some of their family traditions. Numerous lessons and discussions were focused on how the pandemic impacted our global food supply, prices and food distribution. Virtual guest speakers shared real-world experiences with our students and allowed students to see the connections between theory and practice. Seniors Kelsey Yelle and Kaylee Sims received department book awards.

Industrial Arts teacher, Tom Baldino, went out of his way to create opportunities for his students to draw, craft, model and create. Students developed templates for projects, constructed portable carry-all's, completed survey designs and were able to gain exposure to casting, welding and steam bending. Mr. Baldino spent remote Wednesdays providing live video demonstrations to his students at home, ensuring that they were exposed to all the techniques necessary to achieve success. STEM education projects encouraged both creative and critical thinking skills in conjunction with differentiated learning experiences. Michael Branagan and Mollie Crabtree were book award recipients.

English Department

Aeden Marcus received the Charlene Howarth Award. Haley Cuthbert received the Erica Fuld and Jesse Hanawalt Award. Lindsey Pompulis, Anna Galer, Sam Streton, Hailey Chan won the English Department book awards.
Due to COVID 19 restrictions all department events were canceled.

Guidance Department

The Guidance Department is pleased to announce that the Class of 2021 had 82% of its members enroll in a 4-year college and 10% enroll in a 2-year or technical college. Students were accepted to colleges across 30 states, the District of Columbia and Denmark. Colleges included Barnard College, Brown University, Case Western Reserve University, Clemson University, Dickinson College, Harvard University, Mount Holyoke College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rice University, The Technical University of Denmark, University of Miami, Villanova University and Washington University in Saint Louis. There were also graduates who enlisted in the United States Army, Marine Corps and Air Force. The department continues to offer the Virtual High School program and students took courses in areas such as American Sign Language, Biochemistry, Constitutional Law, Epidemics, Nuclear Science and Sustainable Engineering. October 2021 a combined 247 sophomores and juniors completed the PSAT and 297 students took the AP exams in May 2021 across 20 subject areas.

While the school year proved challenging due to the pandemic, the department continues to provide services and opportunities to families in a virtual format including Senior Parent Night, Junior Parent Night and a Common Application Workshop. The department (grades 6-12) conducted a Health & Wellness survey that was developed with the district-wide Student Services Committee to assess the needs of students during this difficult time. The results were compiled and shared out at school faculty meetings that included strategies and supports to aid both students and teachers during hybrid learning. Finally, both departments (grades 6-12) were instrumental in developing hybrid clusters (middle school level) and building smaller class sizes (high school level) to ensure both schools were meeting the local and state protocols for pandemic learning.

Library/Media Center

The school library is essential in providing equity-oriented information needed for students and faculty. Equal access for all students in print and nonprint format is crucial for the high school community. We continue to offer a variety of valuable online resources through the library website and have increased our collection of books to broaden the number of diverse voices represented. Questions about the library and library resources can be directed to Tara Vasiliou, LTS Librarian.

Mathematics Department

The Math Department is committed to ensuring that all students have a foundation in algebra, geometry, and Algebra 2. Beyond this, a range of opportunities exist for students to broaden and advance their mathematical understanding through a variety of courses and clubs. Independent study opportunities to extend and to enhance student learning in robotics and computer science provide an additional means for students to pursue their interests.

Seniors Mia Adams and Sarah Taylor were the recipients of the Mathematics Achievement Awards. The Iron Tigers Robotics Team under the leadership of Zoe George and Sarah Taylor competed virtually in the FIRST Robotics challenge. The team held their summer training camp for underclassmen as part of their community outreach and recruitment. Under the advisorship of Amanda Schleicher, the OA Math Team participated virtually in all events; and, in spite of continued pandemic challenges, expanded their participation base.The competitive Math Team participated in the Southern Massachusetts Math League alongside other Hockomock schools, and the general team competed in the Atlantic-Pacific Mathematics League with some schedule adjustments. Other in person events and activities were canceled due to the pandemic.

Music

OAHS

The 2020-2021 school year presented the music department with many unique challenges, although the department was able to maintain a high quality level of music instruction while adapting to COVID as best we could. We began the year with jazz band and chamber orchestra, while marching band season was canceled due to an inability to schedule competitions. The jazz bands rehearsed all year and were able to participate virtually in a festival held by the Massachusetts Association for Jazz Education, the governing body for Jazz Education in the state.

While a traditional winter concert was impossible given COVID restrictions, Chorus, Orchestra, and Concert Band performed in the Winter Concert, the OA performing ensembles released a virtual album in December 2020 (https://soundcloud.com/jeffrey-benson-604467883/sets/easton-public-schools-music-department-winter-album-2020).

OA participated in virtual versions of all of our traditional honor ensemble festivals (SE District, All State, and SEMSBA).

Several Students were accepted into the Sr. District Festival by extremely competitive auditions with over 95 Southeastern Massachusetts Communities. One OA Student, Michael Gold, was also accepted into the Massachusetts All State Concert Band. Several additional students were accepted into SEMSBA Festival (The Southeast Massachusetts School Band Master's Association) through competitive auditions.

OA Orchestra, Concert Choir, Guitar Ensemble, and TRI-M students participated in a variety of virtual projects (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBzei-9ub_Cs2p329NCLqoA/videos)and live performances. In addition, Chamber Orchestra students performed at String Night and annual 45th Messiah Sing. The OA Concert Choir collaborated with the orchestra for the annual Messiah performance at Immaculate Conception Church in December, and also performed their new repertoire at the winter concert. The show choir has started back up again and is collaborating with an experienced choreographer to build a show to perform and potentially compete with. They hosted a workshop with Brockton High School's show choir and directors, and are currently rehearsing for the TEMPO Dessert Show.

Marching Band returned to OA for the fall of 2021 and the OA Marching Band bounced back with a win at NESBA Finals to become the New England Division IV Champions, OAMB's first championship in a decade.

In December of 2021, live music returned to the stage at OA with the OA Winter Concert (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_nhqo2d4dE&t=3920s)

EMS

Niki Miragliotta started working with EMS Chorus in December 2020, coming to EMS from working as a program director with the San Diego Children's Choir. After working with chorus students virtually for much of the year, exploring theme days like "Movement Mondays" and "Theory Thursdays," they finally got to sing in-person in April 2021 using the gym to space out at 10-foot intervals. 6th Grade Chorus collaborated to create a singing-narration for a read-along song-tale, "The Crabfish," and 7/8 Chorus sent off a retiring EMS teacher, Mrs. Fowler, with a live outdoor performance of "This Little Light of Mine." 8th grader Rishita Phanse represented EMS in the virtual SEMMEA Junior District Chorus, and was joined by fellow 8th graders Avery Leahy, Charlotte Rowell, Abigail Sandstrum, and Stella Zachos in the virtual SEMSBA Junior Festival Chorus. Show Choir was able to produce a wonderful video performance (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eH54_-zQ2sI&authuser=0).

Fall 2021 also saw the return of Mrs. Kristy Foye to the department teaching band and orchestra after two years teaching in the Lexington Public Schools. Mrs. Foye previously taught for 7 years in EPS.

EMS Students were able to present final products both virtually and in person (outdoor) performances in the spring. Their perseverance in keeping music alive at EMS was tremendous. From August-October, 5 EMS 8th Graders participated in the OA Marching Band and were part of the championship winning team. The full return of live competitive jazz band, show choir, and chamber orchestra began in fall of 2021.

K-5

At Center School and Moreau Hall, 2nd grade students submitted recordings for two virtual songs using the Seesaw application (December and June). All grades participated in three weeks of virtual Meet the Instrument classes with Navy Band musicians (April and May).

We had a successful year of music at Richardson Olmsted. Despite music being taught mostly remotely, 4th and 5th grade band and orchestra students had a successful start on their instruments. We finished the year with the 4th grade instrument classes and 5th grade band, orchestra, and chorus putting together an online album of music from our RO musicians to share with their families.

Physical Education, Health And Wellness

The Physical Education, Health, and Wellness Department continues to enhance programming through the culmination of updated/ relevant curriculum and the implementation of technology. As we made our way through a new normal of online schooling and implementing our curriculum in a very different mode. Our department was also guided by the very evident need to increase social emotional learning for our students.

Oliver Ames High School and Easton Middle School had many challenges as we reopened our schools. Traditionally we display a team oriented approach in team building and skill building concepts. The OA wellness staff targeted the execution of the PLT4M program. PLT4M is an online based fitness program that can easily be adapted to in school or at home. Students were expected to follow online demonstrations to the work out assigned and participate in a summary or fitness log assignment. The teachers also incorporated socially distant activities like backyard games, fitness tabatas, and other fun creative activities. At EMS, the teachers also had a very challenging year to traditional teaching strategies. With scheduling concerns and cohorting it was decided to teach a Wellness Course. Wellness was taught in all areas of the school such as the cafetoria, media centers and in classrooms. Again, creative teaching practices were implemented to create a whole child teaching environment with many health concepts weaved into the active units. EMS teachers implemented health units such as Safety (online, bike, CPR and basic first aid), Importance of all of the Dimensions of Wellness, Substance Misuse and Refusal Skills, Social Emotional Learning Concepts, Strategies of Stress Management, and many others depending on grade level. Both OA and EMS teachers utilized the outside spaces as much as possible with all of the restrictions that were put forth inside the buildings. Increased equipment needs and new materials were bought to help ease the already interrupted curriculum.

Richardson Olmsted School, Center School, Morau Hall, and Parkview schools all were challenged with a non-traditional Physical Education scheduling. Again, the teachers approach was to increase activity safely and increase the SEL strategies to help the students improve overall wellness. All of the teachers used some kind of visual representation of over 6 feet spacing to help the students participate safely. Students participated in a multiple varieties of stationary spacing activities, using single manipulatives (scoops, lacrosse sticks, and other types of ball type activities), and as school restrictions got better the students were engaged in more partner type activities. Again, the needs of equipment type increased and new equipment was purchased to ease restrictions. Overall, as a department we had a very successful school year although very non-traditional. We look forward to a more traditional school year ahead.

Science Department

The Science Team led by Nancy Donahue and Christopher Koutros competed in 2 Digital Regional competitions and an on-line State Tournament. Twenty-two students prepared for these competitions by studying content and applying it to case studies. The team engaged in the National MY SO Curriculum.

The Envirothon led by Michelle Makrinos worked on miniature scavenger hunts and projects focused on sustainability and getting students away from screens and collecting information from the world around them. Students applied Envirothon knowledge to everyday observations and activities and reported back to Google classroom based on their observations.

In May, Maria Annunziato, Nancy Donahue and Ryan Mulcahy took their Environmental Science students to Langwater Farm for a field trip to study first hand the workings of an organic farm. Langwater Farm owner Kevin O'Dwyer led the tour which emphasized the importance of crop rotation, the management of weeds and pests with natural methods and the use of natural fertilizers.

The OA Environmental Society led by Joanne Coffman and Nancy Donahue continued the mission of recycling and environmental awareness by meeting remotely each week with students. Several students regularly participated to share information about the environment and discuss project ideas such as a mural. Students also read and discussed books, TED talks and articles about the environment.

Careers Club led by Michelle Makrinos hosted a number of professionals, many from science careers, to talk about their schooling, and what it is like to work in the field. Students interviewed an architect, a science teacher, a psychologist, an immunologist, a Navy neurologist, a nurse, and a biochemist. Students engaged and prepared questions for virtual visitors, and many learned about new career paths in STEM that they hadn't thought about exploring before.

Senior recipients of the Science Achievement Award were Sofia Anestam, Emily Han, and Eniola Sorinmade.

Over 300 juniors and seniors enrolled in rigorous, science elective lab courses last year to prepare for college and careers, often in the science and allied health fields.

Social Studies

The social studies department is committed to ensuring all students are given a foundation in historical thinking skills and an understanding of local, national, and world history. We are also committed to a robust program that allows for students to pursue more specialized study in the social sciences.

Students at Oliver Ames had a number of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom. The Mock Trial program, run by Mr. Gotsell, allows students to gain an insight into law and the legal system through competition against other schools in local courtrooms. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, the trials were held virtually in 2021. Oliver Ames students elected four seniors, Emma O'Hara, Aeden Marcus, Aisha Giraud, and Mia Adams to Student Government Day at the Massachusetts State House, however, this event was held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. The Oliver Ames Hockomock Model Senate program, run by Mr. Goldberg, was held virtually on April 13th and 14th. The Local History class, taught by Mr. Darling, had to cancel its fall 2020 trip due to the ongoing pandemic. The class visited historic Easton sites in October 2021 with the assistance and expertise of local historian Ed Hands. Included on the trip were the Borderland Mansion, Oakes Ames Hall, Queset House, Unity Church, North Easton Railroad Station, V..F.W., and Simpson Spring. The Senior Project class, taught by Mr. Goldberg, had a successful year with virtual presentations for Community Night in October 2020, as well as in-person final presentations in the spring of 2021. Mrs. Kenney did not bring students on CloseUp in 2021 due to the continuing pandemic, however we have planned a Massachusetts trip for the spring of 2022. These students will spend three days learning how our government works, participating in conversations and debates with experts, and have the opportunity to see our state government in action.

The Social Studies Book Award recipients from the class of 2021 were Mia Adams, Brendan Cross, Katherine McCormick, Cameron Moro, Benjamin Murphy, and Samantha Streton. The recipients of the 2021 Hazel Varella Leadership Award were Anna Galer and Hailey Chan.

World Language Department

The World Language Department of Easton Public Schools is committed to the development of language and cultural proficiency in students of grades 7 through 12. The department offers students various opportunities to enrich their understanding of world language and cultures, as well as showcase their abilities and achievements. Department Chair Maria Palma may be contacted to discuss programming and activities.

In June of 2021, seniors in Spanish and French level 5, and Latin level 4, were awarded for achievement in language study at Class Night. Recipients of Book Awards in these levels have demonstrated high academic achievement, passion, and interest in the language and culture that transcend the classroom into their own lives.

Cameron Moro and Samantha Streton were honored for Spanish.
Anna Galer was honored for French.
Katelyn Quinn was honored for Latin.

Monsieur Sharkey's French students participated in the National French Contest, Le Grand Concours, in March of 2021. Several students earned distinction in their various levels of study.

Fabrice Fouron and Fannie Fouron earned Gold Medals.
Madeleine Bornstein and Gabrielle Jacobs earned Silver Medals.
Anna Galer, Johanna Holmes, Sean McCarthy, Meray Nemr, Jacob Nipoti, and Cassandra Passias earned Honorable Mentions.

Due to the pandemic, the department was unable to offer the travel programs that many students have experienced over the years, for each of the three languages offered. The World Language Department plans to continue the travel tradition when global conditions safely allow.

Conclusion

The community of Easton can and should be extremely proud of the Easton Public Schools. Not only does the system consistently rank among the highest performing districts in the state in a number of areas, but it does so in a fiscally responsible manner. This was particularly true as the 2020-2021 school year was significantly affected by the pandemic.

Federal stimulus funds were strategically used to provide safe and robust learning experiences to all children to the greatest extent possible with all of the requirements and challenges that were presented and modified regularly. All Town departments and resources worked together to successfully bring the citizens of Easton through this unprecedented period of time.

We are currently facing financial operational challenges as the state and federal contributions traditionally received by Easton are changing, the pandemic is still a concern, and legislative priorities are shifting. However, the dedicated staff and administrators, and the talented children of this Town are continuing the course toward continual improvement and growth, and we are using these opportunities to nurture resilience and compassion in our students.

This work is not possible without the continued support of all stakeholders. Therefore, we wish to thank the School Committee, Town Administration and Departments, elected officials, parents, and citizens of Easton for their continued engagement in the elementary school building project, the work being done within the Easton Public Schools, and their ongoing and humbling support of the efforts of the Easton Public Schools faculty and staff. We are honored to serve the young learners of Easton.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Cabral, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Health & Community Services (HCS) is comprised of the Council on Aging, Health Department, Recreation and Veterans' services. This format leverages the strengths of each of these departments as they work cooperatively in achieving their similar goals of promoting health, wellness and community engagement.

The Department provides staff support to the Council on Aging, Board of Health and Recreation Commission. The Department also supports the Taxation Aid Committee and the Age Friendly Advisory Committee

This year has been full of challenges for Health & Community Services as we continue to navigate the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

In 2021 our two Deputy Directors continued to define their new positions, evaluating and elevating what Easton has to offer in the form of supports to its residents.

The year 2021 presented an opportunity to expand our services by working with Easton Fire Department to implement a Community Health and Paramedicine program. The program is managed by the Town's EMS/MIH/Public Health Officer and is based out of the Frothingham Hall Community Center. The goal of this collaboration is to implement an effective and accessible Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program. By investing in proactive and preventative care, the program seeks to have our residents remain in the community by providing supports that limit the need for emergency care whenever possible.

Financial and Veterans Services:
Charged with providing access and support and working with a variety of town departments and external organizations, the Town of Easton offers a number of programs and resources to support residents, veterans and their families.
The Town of Easton offers opportunities for Senior and Veteran homeowners to participate in a program which allows them to provide services for the Town in exchange for a reduction of their property tax bills. These volunteers provide many valuable services, such as meals on wheels deliveries, assistance to the Library, DPW, Fire Department and schools. In 2021, these volunteers, in addition to many other volunteers, continued the Friendly Caller program introduced in 2020 that was created to provide opportunities for the continued ability to accumulate the necessary hours for the tax credit while safely combating social isolation and increase the neighborly conversations that we all have missed during this past year.

The Deputy Director of Financial and Veterans Services fulfills the role of Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) for the Town. The VSO is charged with:

- Management of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 115 benefits to ensure efficient, consistent and accurate delivery of benefits to our veterans. The streamlined management of this program has resulted in a 100% approval rate of submitted expenses, 75% of which are reimbursed by the Commonwealth.
- Accepting donations and providing financial assistance to individuals in need from the Veterans Discretionary Fund.
- Advocating for and assisting veterans in navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal benefits.

- Continuation of professional development by virtual attendance at the Department of Veterans' Services/Massachusetts Veterans' Service Officer Association joint training conferences.
- Providing counseling and assistance with burial benefits and use of National Cemeteries.
- Presiding over all patriotic events in the Town of Easton.

Programming and Community Engagement:
Guided by the volunteers who serve on the Council on Aging and the Recreation Commission, the Department seeks to provide programming and services that enrich the lives of the residents of Easton. Utilizing a variety of funding sources such as the annual town budget, the Executive Office of Elder affairs formula grant, other grants, and donations, we are able to provide exciting and supportive programs. The COVID19 Pandemic has challenged to engage in different ways, but we continue to evolve and adapt as the situation changes.
Friendly Caller Program: The Friendly Caller Program was created in 2020 out of an effort to combat social isolation and increase the neighborly conversations that we all have missed during this past year. The program consists of a list of volunteers, who are tasked with calling a list of recipients. The two parties connect and share stories, experiences, and check in on one another. The impact of this program has been very well received and we hope to continue and further develop this program to increase camaraderie among our seniors and other community members.

Senior Newsletter distribution: The Town of Easton COA newsletter, The Coordinator, has not stopped production and distribution throughout this past year. We have implemented new ways of preparing and distributing this newsletter. Our volunteers have taken newsletters home to fold and prepare for shipment. The Coordinator provides senior residents with updates on local happenings, tips on safety and self-care, as well as information on our virtual programs that we have offered as an alternative.

Recreation: A number of programs continue to be offered to our senior residents. In the beginning of 2021 fitness classes (Zumba, gentle yoga, sit & fit, & Tai Chi) continued to be available on the local town cable station, ECAT. Four of our instructors filmed their classes at ECATs studio, and ECAT broadcast each class once a week while we were closed. We also offered weekly programs such as Drawing class, Delicious and Nutritious cooking show, a movie review show, Music for Seniors, a Baseball trivia show, and Fur, Fin & Feathers animal show.

When the building reopened to the public, we offered in person programs. In an attempt to provide for social distancing and personal levels of comfort, many of these fitness classes were offered twice on the same day. The programs offered were Art, Balance and strength, Healthy Eating, Mah Jongg, Line Dancing, Senior Fitness, Swedish Weaving, Tai Chi and Yoga.

We continued to offer programs for adults and youth in 2021, included Tee Ball, Track and Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Cross Country Running, Field Hockey, Adult Yoga, Adult Coed Volleyball and Men's Basketball. The Fall of 2021, saw the addition of a new program, Field Hockey for girls grades 5/6. They practiced at the Oliver Ames fields and competed in the Commonwealth League, traveling to play on the weekends.

In a continuation of our efforts to offer multi-generational opportunities, we collaborated with the OAHS honor students to build a program to replace our traditional senior volunteer appreciation luncheon with a COVID friendly event. Volunteers were recognized with a drive-thru celebration. The honor students put together goody bags in advance for the event as well as decorations. The volunteers were invited to drive through the Frothingham Hall parking lot during a designated time frame, where they received a goody bag and were cheered on by students and staff.

The CPA funded project which will result in the construction of 6 pickle ball courts and associated infrastructure, at the Town's Unionville Field recreation area continued to face challenges in 2021. We look forward to the realization of revised project and its increased budget as we look to 2022 and our expanded efforts to provide opportunities for intergenerational programming.

Health: Health Department Staff provides technical support to the Board of Health and fulfills many legally mandated duties. With the COVID19 Pandemic, the Board of Health has actively participated in many of the Public Health responses needed to protect the residents of Easton. Years of emergency preparedness training and collaboration had positioned the Health Department to take an active leadership role in the Towns response to COVID 19.

With the ongoing COVID19 Pandemic, the Health Department staff have continued to rise to the challenges placed before them. The staff has maintained a dedicated email and phone support to the community, acting as sole point of contact in an attempt to provide centralized access to resources and information.

Health Department staff worked closely with Easton Fire, Police and DPW to deliver COVID19 vaccine to residents and staff. In addition to a number of clinics held at Frothingham Hall, the department used lessons learned during the H1N1 flu pandemic to plan and implement a number of opportunities at various town meetings. Additionally, Health and Fire worked together to deliver vaccine to some of our most vulnerable residents in their homes, going door to door at the Easton Housing Authority. We were also able to provide a number of free testing opportunities in the later part of 2021, providing opportunities for residents to test before gathering for various holiday celebrations.

Health Department Staff utilized various State software programs and platforms to facilitate vaccine administration, testing reporting and COVID case follow up protocols. The department staff supported many local businesses as they navigated the changing requirements and the protocols for exposures and cases within their businesses.

In addition to all that COVID brought in 2021, the department is responsible for licensing and inspecting a large number and type of establishments and operations including Body Art Establishments; Body Art Practitioners; Recreational Camps for Children; Motels/Trailer Parks; Food service including mobile food vendors, farmers market and temporary events; Death Certificates (done with the help of the Town Clerk's office); Dumpsters; Dumpster Service; Funeral Directors; Disposal System Construction Permits; Disposal Works Installer Permits; Outdoor Sanitary Facilities; Title 5 inspectors; Public/Semi-public Swimming Pools; Tanning Facilities; Tobacco Sales Permits; Residential Curbside Trash Collectors; and Septic Pumping Trucks.

Additionally, the staff provides support to the community on all public health issues.

- The Contract Nurse assisted with reportable disease investigations, COVID and others. The Contract Nurse and Staff provided information and guidance on many health issues.
- We were able to once again have our free sharps collection day. With the addition of the Community Paramedicine Program we were able to add a Sharps Kiosk at the Bay Road Fire Station, providing a safe, convenient opportunity to dispose of these items as needed.
- We continue to administer the Septic Betterment loan program which has provided almost $4,000,000 in the form of low interest loans for the purpose of replacing failed septic systems. An additional $300,000 has been approved for projects that are in the process of being completed.
- The professionals in the office maintained their education requirements for their state licenses and certifications by attending seminars and classes virtually and in person throughout the year on a variety of topics.
- Staff respond to complaints and concerns of conditions which could present a risk to the public health.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Kennedy, Director
kkennedy@easton.ma.us
Town Hall ~ 508-230-0620
Frothingham Hal ~ 508-230-069

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Overview

The Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School District consists of a four-year public high school and a post-secondary technical institute. During 2020—2021, the high school offered twenty career majors to students from Brockton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Sharon, Stoughton and West Bridgewater. The Southeastern Technical Institute offered the following programs: Practical Nurse, Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting, Machine Tool Technologies (Advanced Manufacturing), Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing.

The District School Committee consists of ten dedicated individuals elected from the communities of Brockton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Sharon, Stoughton and West Bridgewater.

The 2020—2021 District operating budget for Southeastern was $33,265,238. The Southeastern Regional District's enrollment was 1,624 students of which Easton had 85 students or approximately 5.2% of the total enrollment. Easton's assessment for 2022 was $1,369,494.

Administration

Michael Pietrowski is the Easton Representative on the School Committee. Luis G. Lopes, Ed.S., is the Superintendent of the Southeastern Regional School District.

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School

Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School is a four-year public high school serving the young men and women from the City of Brockton and the Towns of East Bridgewater, Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Sharon, Stoughton, and West Bridgewater.

Our school combines a rigorous academic curriculum with challenging vocational and technical studies to help students realize their full learning potential.

The schedule was designed to have students alternate between academic and technical coursework. This process promotes integration of studies and helps bridge the gap between theoretical and practical experience.

The hands-on approach to learning helps reconnect students to education, and provides the basis for life-long learning–an essential skill in today's highly competitive global market.

Upon graduation, students have the choice of furthering their education in any two or four year institution, internships, certification programs, military service or going directly into the workforce.

Exploratory Program

The goal at Southeastern is to have students choose a career major that excites them about school and education. Recognizing the fact that many incoming students had not spent much time considering their future, we developed a Freshman Exploratory Program which combines career counseling, career exploration, academic studies, and testing to help students make the right decision. Ninth grade applicants selected several technical areas they wished to explore. Parents were encouraged to participate by asking their child about each program and by attending Freshman Parent Meetings.

Near the completion of the 9th grade, students were asked to choose a career major. Every effort was made to place students in their preferred career. Acceptance into many programs was highly competitive and students were ranked based on their effort, grades, behavior, and attendance. It was imperative that ninth grade students did well in all their classes, maintained nearly perfect attendance, and avoided behavioral issues. Students not getting their first choice were assigned an alternate program and placed on a waiting list. All our programs prepare students for high-demand, high-paying career fields.

Southeastern Technical Institute

The Mission of the Southeastern Technical Institute is to transform students into life-long learners, and transition graduates into entry-level positions within their career field. The Mission and Goals are organized around four core philosophies; the Mastery of Foundation Skills, the Development of Interpersonal Skills, Proactive Student Engagement, and a commitment to Stretch Learning Initiatives.

In the past 54 years, Southeastern Technical Institute has provided training in several vocational areas, constantly striving to meet the training needs of our students and area businesses. This year, the Technical Institute housed the following programs: Practical Nurse, Medical Assisting, Dental Assisting, Machine Tool Technologies (Advanced Manufacturing), Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing.

In 2018, STI began offering Dual Enrollment which is a partnership with in-district high schools that enables high school seniors to attend STI during the last semester of their senior year. After graduating high school, students continue in their selected program and graduate from STI within six months to one year with industry certification.

The STI participated in the Southeastern Regional School District's Program Advisory Committee, advising, assisting and supporting school personnel to improve planning, operation and evaluation of a program area, based on adequate and timely information as to workforce and job development demands or job market trends, technological developments, training alternatives and other factors affecting the quality of the program.

Easton's Class of 2021 Graduates

Southeastern's Class of 2021 Easton graduates were: John Bradley, Evelyn Canavan, Domenic Cerce, Bryanna Clanton, John Cooper, Kyle Cummings, Alfred Gillis, Aidan Glover, Ana Inguanti, David Larkin, Joshua Matthews, Makena Medeiros, William Messana, Nathan Mirsky, Nicole Scully, Kiara Simeon, Micaiah Taylor, Olivia Vega, Domenic Worster.

For More Information

Additional documents and information may be accessed at our website at www.sersd.org and www.stitech.edu.

TOWN OF EASTON
OFFICE OF THE
COLLECTOR/TREASURER
136 ELM STREET
NO. EASTON, MA 02356
www.easton.ma.us

LINDA J. HAWKES
Treasurer/Collector
lhawkes@easton.ma.us
Main: 508.230.0600
Direct: 508.230.0604
FAX: 508.230.5769

February 1, 2022

To the residents of Easton,

The Collector is the officer to whom taxes, excises, betterments, special assessments and certain other charges are committed for collection. The collector is responsible for receiving all committed taxes and any and all amounts due the Town, and paying such amounts over to the Treasurer. The Tax Collector's office receives all funds due the town and is responsible for timely billing of tax and fees.

Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, the Collector's office maintained a very acceptable collection rate of 97.3% of committed real estate bills in FY21. At the same time, we focused on servicing past due balances and relaxed any formal legal action on delinquent taxes, which allowed residents additional time to make payments and avoid a tax taking. Other tax receivables are in line with previous years' collections, resulting in overall collections tracking at approximately equal to historical rates.

The Treasurer serves as the Town's cash manager. The Treasurer maintains custody of all municipal funds and has the responsibility for the deposit, disbursement and investment of all town funds. Additionally, the Treasurer's office coordinates all payroll items and reports, as well as the administration of all benefits for more than 1100 employees and 500 retirees.

The Treasurer's office continued to administer benefits to all employees and retirees of the Town. Open enrollment and other onboarding systems are increasingly moving toward electronic platforms, and we successfully navigated an open enrollment period for both health insurance and FSA accounts.

The FY21 borrowing took place in August, 2020, and the Town sold $4,940,000 worth of bonds, and we were happy to have been able to sell the bonds at a true interest cost of 1.29%. This is in part due to the Aa3 rating that the Town enjoys from Moody's Investor Service

I would like to thank the staff of the Treasurer-Collector's Department for their dedication to their jobs, the other employees of the Town, and the residents of the Town. The level of professionalism demonstrated over the past year has been exemplary.

Submitted for your review are various documents outlining a variety of financial data points. The reports are largely in summary form; please contact me for any further clarification.

I look forward to serving the Town for the next and many years to come. Please let us know if we can help in any way.

LINDA J. HAWKES, CMMT, Treasurer/Collector
Kathi Finn, Assistant Collector/Treasurer
Susan Rowse, Principal Clerk/Collection
Brian Mandeville, Principal Clerk/Collection
Crystal Power, Payroll Coordinator

COLLECTOR'S REPORT OF TAXES
FY21

	Billed	Abated/ Exempted	Refund	Commit to Tax Title	Paid	Balance 06/30/21
Real Estate	59,722,583	261,670	68,079	0	59,009,719	519,273
CPA	1,434,082	16,352	4,754	0	1,412,320	10,164
Personal Property	1,289,187	11,188	7,632	0	1,262,291	23,340
Excise *	4,196,129	116,897	57,588	0	3,992,203	144,616
Water/ Sewer	3,951,879	1,332	3,510	112,878	3,521,317	319,862
Trash	1,544,093	0	596	0	1,341,816	202,873

* calendar year

TAX AND FEES RECEIVABLE 06/30/2021

Tax Type		Balance
Personal Property Taxes		
Levy of 2021	$	23,340
Levy of 2020	$	9,179
Levy of 2019	$	5,769
Levy of 2018	$	6,507
Levy of Prior Years	$	38,916
Total	**$**	**83,711**
Real Estate Taxes		
Levy of 2021 (due w bal due)	$	519,273
Levy of 2020	$	23,818
Levy of Prior Years	$	1,543
Total	**$**	**544,634**
Deferred Property Taxes		
Deferred Property Taxes	**$**	**7,704**
Motor Vehicle Excise		
Levy of 2021	$	415,441
Levy of 2020	$	93,870
Levy of 2019	$	29,806
Levy of 2018	$	17,933
Levy of Prior Years	$	200,028
Total	**$**	**757,078**
Tax Liens/Tax Title	$	799,584
Tax Foreclosures/Tax Possessions	$	382,424
User Charges Receivable		
Water	$	316,045
Sewer	$	3,817
Other: Trash	$	202,873
Other: CPA	$	10,234

COLLECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT OF TAX TITLE FY21

Balance - July 1, 2020	$	853,046
Additions:		
New Tax Takings	$	209,447
Deductions:		
Redemptions/Paid	$	261,735
Foreclosures/Auctions:	$	1,174
Balance - June 30, 2021	$	799,584

BANK BALANCES 12/31/2021
GENERAL FUND

*** includes pending transfers

Bank Name	Fund Purpose		As of 12/31/2021
Bank of Easton	Water lockbox	$	2,591,820
	Water Enterprise	$	2,014,232
Bartholomew Investments	General Investment Account	$	1,468,323
Bristol County Savings Bank	Depository General Fund	$	2,183,856
	State Aid - Wires	$	1,854,891
	Money Market	$	709,931
	Tailings	$	35,285
	Meal Pay Plus	$	58,147
	No Interest Depository	$	189
Citizen's Bank	School Bonds	$	8,026,113
	Dep Acct-Athletic F	$	38,285
	OAHS Student Activity	$	405,811
	EMS Student Activity	$	63,668
	Activity Acct Middle Sch	$	5,000
	PIP - money market	$	82,599
Eastern Bank	School Lunch	$	18,547
	Money Market	$	89,024
	Payroll Acct	$	15
	Vendor Acct	$	11
	Lockbox Account	$	1,351,197
	Sports Pilot	$	1,059,656

Continued next page

Bank Name	Fund Purpose	As of 12/31/2021		
Easthampton Savings Bank	ESB General Fund	$	577,082	
	ESB Transfer Acct	$	205,702	
	Peer Review -- 53 G	$	92,605	
MMDT	General Depository	$	522,740	
	Cultural Council	$	12,693	
	Police Law Enf Trust	$	1,569	
Mansfield Savings Bank	General Fund	$	159,395	
North Easton Savings Bank	Ambulance Receipts	$	743,793	
Rockland Trust	Ambulance Account	$	453,677	
	Online Payments Acct	$	1,368,060	
	Bond Proceeds	$	12,807,109	
	Rockland Vendor	$	38	***
Unibank	General Fund	$	9,114,048	
	Online Acct Depts	$	937,463	
Webster Bank	General Fund/Tailings	$	59,093	
	FSA	$	41,360	
Total General Fund		$	49,153,023	

Bank Name	Fund Purpose	As of 12/31/2021		
Bank of Easton	Water lockbox	$	2,591,820	
	Water Enterprise	$	2,014,232	
Bartholomew Investments	General Investment Account	$	1,468,323	
Bristol County Savings Bank	Depository General Fund	$	2,183,856	
	State Aid - Wires	$	1,854,891	
	Money Market	$	709,931	
	Tailings	$	35,285	
	Meal Pay Plus	$	58,147	
	No Interest Depository	$	189	
Citizen's Bank	School Bonds	$	8,026,113	
	Dep Acct-Athletic F	$	38,285	
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	PIP - money market	$	82,599	
Eastern Bank	School Lunch	$	18,547	
	Money Market	$	89,024	
	Payroll Acct	$	15	
	Vendor Acct	$	11	
	Lockbox Account	$	1,351,197	
	Sports Pilot	$	1,059,656	
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MMDT	General Depository	$	522,740	
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Rockland Trust	Ambulance Account	$	453,677	
	Online Payments Acct	$	1,368,060	
	Bond Proceeds	$	12,807,109	
	Rockland Vendor	$	38	***
Unibank	General Fund	$	9,114,048	
	Online Acct Depts	$	937,463	
Webster Bank	General Fund/Tailings	$	59,093	
	FSA	$	41,360	
Total General Fund		$	49,153,023	

BANK BALANCES – TRUST FUNDS
12/31/21
*** includes pending transfers

Bank Name	Fund Purpose	12/31/2021	
Cash	Collector's Drawer	$ 600	
NESB	OAHS Imprest Acct	$ 6,000	***
Bartholomew Investments	Stabilization Funds	$ 4,749,165	
	Capital Stabilization	$ 1,895,010	
	Sewer Capital Stab	$ 1,775,790	
	CPA	$ 4,642,637	
	Catherine Hobart Ames Schol	$ 335,191	
	OPEB	$ 222,419	
Bristol County Savings Bank	Multiple scholarships and reserve	$ 146,364	
	300th Anniversary Trust	$ 21,256	
	Affordable Housing Trust	$ 798,473	
Eastern Bank	scholarships and cemetery funds	$ 56,569	
Easthampton Savings Bank	Performance Bonds	$ 680,344	
MMDT (MA Mun DepositoryTrust)	Conservation Trust	$ 135,584	
	Unemployment Trust	$ 18,872	
North Easton Savings Bank	CD World War Mem Scholarship	$ 24,000	
	WW Mem Scholarship	$ 17,874	
Performance Bond Passbooks	performanc bonds	$ 55,947	
Vanguard Investments	Parker-Ames Investment Acc	$ 438,158	
	OA Tiger Schol	$ 1,715,152	
Webster	OAHS Naming Campaign	$ 124,056	
		$ 17,859,460	

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
FY21

Long Term Debt					
Long Term Debt Inside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2020	+ New Debt Issued	- Retired	= Outstanding June 30, 2021	Interest Paid-FY21
Buildings	2,765,000	100,000	200,000	2,665,000	89,887
Departmental Equipm	2,960,000	345,000	540,000	2,765,000	144,088
School Buildings	9,550,000	1,677,498	2,840,000	8,387,498	292,050
School - All Other	510,000		160,000	350,000	14,481
Sewer	10,061,432	5,058,774	3,514,986	11,605,220	315,790
Solid Waste				0	
Other Inside	8,255,000	656,029	1,130,000	7,781,029	250,841
SUB - TOTAL Inside	34,101,432	7,837,301	8,384,986	33,553,747	1,107,137
Long Term Debt Outside the Debt Limit	Outstanding July 1, 2020	+ New Debt Issued	- Retirements	= Outstanding June 30, 2021	Interest Paid-FY21
School Buildings	1,040,000		80,000	960,000	30,962
Sewer	479,775		20,665	459,110	9,389
Solid Waste Landfill	355,000		120,000	235,000	8,550
Water	2,842,000	159,000	232,000	2,769,000	104,825
Other Outside	1,317,996	1,000,000	81,573	2,236,423	8,760
SUB - TOTAL Outsid	6,034,771	1,159,000	534,238	6,659,533	162,486
TOTAL Long Term	**40,136,203**	**8,996,301**	**8,919,224**	**40,213,280**	**1,269,623**

Continued next page

Short Term Debt

Short Term Debt	Outstanding July 1, 2020	+ Issued	- Retired	Outstanding June 30,	Interest Paid-FY21
BANs - Bond Anticipation:					
Buildings	100,000	0	100,000	0	1,983
School Buildings	4,100,000	5,600,000	4,100,000	5,600,000	63,696
Water	219,000	3,875,000	219,000	3,875,000	4,155
Other BANs	4,362,572	2,525,000	4,362,572	2,525,000	80,989
Other Short Term Debt- MCWT ILNs	7,668,082	3,864,399	1,000,000	10,532,481	
TOTAL Short Term	**16,449,654**	**15,864,399**	**9,781,572**	**22,532,481**	**150,823**
GRAND TOTAL All	**56,585,857**	**24,860,700**	**18,700,796**	**62,745,761**	**1,420,446**

Continued next page

Authorized and Unissued Debt

Purpose	Date of Vote	Art No.	Amount Authorized	- Issued - Retired - Rescined	= Unissued 6/30/2021
School Boiler	11/10/10	11	250,000	250,000	-
Water Well #4	05/18/15	17	2,200,000	2,009,000	191,000
5 Corners Wastewater Trtm	05/18/15	22	8,300,000	828,000	7,472,000
Hooklift -DPW	11/16/15	5	200,000	100,000	100,000
Water Main - Depot St	05/15/17	19	3,667,000	-	3,667,000
Sewer Construction (5 Cor)	05/21/18	13	13,500,000	12,624,853	875,147
DPW Pavement Mngmnt	10/30/18	4	500,000	300,000	200,000
Foundry St Water Main Rep	10/30/18	4	2,400,000	160,000	2,240,000
Water Pollution Fac Proj	05/20/19	13	1,000,000	500,000	500,000
Synthetic Turf/Track - Mus	05/20/19	15	185,000	155,000	30,000
Bldgs & Grnds Muni Cap In	05/20/19	15	100,000	-	100,000
Early Elem School Project	10/28/19 & 11/05/19	1	94,839,543	2,920,448	91,919,095
Depot St Land Acquisition	11/12/19	7	800,000		800,000
FD - Abulance	06/22/20	8	350,000	-	350,000
Water Trtmnt D&E	06/22/20	8	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Water Main Replace	6/22/2020	8	950,000	-	950,000
OR Parking Lot	11/30/2020	5	114,000	-	114,000
DPW-10 Wheel Dump	11/30/20	5	250,000	-	250,000
Town Hall Restoration	11/30/20	12	1,450,000	-	1,450,000
Septic Loan Program	5/17/2021	8	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Capital Budget-FY22	5/17/2021	10	27,663,000	-	27,663,000
Queset Sewer	05/18/15 & 11/13/17	21	3,690,000	3,610,000	80,000
					140,871,242

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

I hereby submit the report of the Town Accountant for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, which includes the combined balance sheet as of that date and the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund equity.

The office of the Town Accountant is part of the Department of Municipal Finance, which was created to unify and coordinate the financial functions of accounting, assessing, tax collection and treasury, with the role of Finance Director assumed by the Town Accountant. The Town Accountant's office is responsible for the accounting and control of all town funds, disbursements, and financial records in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and by-laws of the Town of Easton. In addition, responsibilities include maintenance of the Town's general ledger system including detailed records of cash receipts, appropriations and expenditures, and the closing of all financial books at the end of the fiscal year. The Town Accountant prepares financial statements and reports, plays a key role in the preparation of the Town budget and works with the independent auditors on the annual financial and compliance audit. Our annual audit for the fiscal year was completed by Melanson of Andover, Massachusetts.

I would especially like to thank all the members of the municipal finance department team: Assistant Town Accountant Adilia Collazo, Principal Clerk Peg Horne, Collector/Treasurer Linda Hawkes, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Kathi Finn, Payroll Coordinator Crystal Power, Principal Clerks Susan Rowse and Brian Mandeville, Chief Assessor Robert Alford II, Assessors Assistant Ellen Weene and Assessors Office Assistant Lisa Florio for their hard work and dedication to the Town. I would also like to thank all the Town Departments, Boards, Commissions and Committees for their cooperation and support this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Nightingale
Finance Director/Town Accountant

TEL: (508) 230-0560
FAX: (508) 230-0569
E-Mail: wnightingale@easton.ma.us

TOWN OF EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUP
JUNE 30, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group	
						General	Total
		Special	Capital		Trust and	Long-Term	(Memorandum
	General	Revenue	Projects	Enterprise	Agency	Debt	Only)
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	15,028,316	15,064,626	2,581,146	5,352,366	11,697,303	-	49,723,757
Receivables:							
Real estate taxes	577,339	10,234	-	-	-	-	587,573
Personal property taxes	83,710	-	-	-	-	-	83,710
Tax liens and foreclosures	1,182,008	-	-	-	-	-	1,182,008
Utility user charges receivable	-	-	-	522,735	-	-	522,735
Utility liens	-	-	-	52,827	-	-	52,827
Betterments	-	1,332,758	-	5,026,799	-	-	6,359,557
Motor vehicle excise and other excise	767,575	-	-	-	-	-	767,575
Departmental and other	2,401,312	5,159,039	-	7,921	-	-	7,568,272
Intergovernmental	106,039	81,337	1,213,748	-	-	-	1,401,124
Long Term Loans Receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allowance for abatements and exemptions	(901,775)	-	-	-	-	-	(901,775)
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets, net	-	-	-	-	-	162,309,378	162,309,378
Amount to be provided for payment of long-term obligations	-	-	-	-	-	40,927,078	40,927,078
Total Assets	19,244,524	21,647,994	3,794,894	10,962,648	11,697,303	203,236,456	270,583,819
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY							
Liabilities:							
Warrants payable	5,479,176	-	-	-	-	-	5,479,176
Accrued liabilities	1,113,749	-	-	-	-	-	1,113,749
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred revenue	4,110,169	6,502,031	1,213,748	5,610,282	-	-	17,436,230
Tax refunds payable		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other liabilities	427,369	143,102	-	-	674,529	-	1,245,000
Notes payable	-	369,388	22,163,093	-	-	-	22,532,481
General long-term debt	-	-	-	-	-	40,927,078	40,927,078
Total Liabilities	11,130,463	7,014,521	23,376,841	5,610,282	674,529	40,927,078	88,733,714
Fund Equity:							
Retained earnings:							
Reserved	-	-	-	422,290	-	-	422,290
Unreserved	-	-	-	4,930,076	-	-	4,930,076
Fund Balances:							
Reserved for encumbrances	455,966	-	-	-	-	-	455,966
Reserved for continuing appropriation	594,334	1,006,166	-	-	-	-	1,600,500
Reserved for expenditures	922,652	294,371	-	-	-	-	1,217,023
Reserved for nonexpendable trust prin	-	-	-	-	61,567	-	61,567
Reserved for unexpended exempt debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserved for debt premium	-	-	133,678	-	-	-	133,678
Reserved for petty cash	600	-	-	-	6,000	-	6,600
Unreserved:							
Designated for snow & ice / overlay de	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Undesignated	6,140,509	13,332,936	(19,715,625)	-	10,955,207	162,309,378	173,022,405
Total Fund Equity	8,114,061	14,633,473	(19,581,947)	5,352,366	11,022,774	162,309,378	181,850,105
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	19,244,524	21,647,994	3,794,894	10,962,648	11,697,303	203,236,456	270,583,819

TOWN OF EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND EQUITY
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types			Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Enterprise	Trust and Agency	General Long-Term Debt	Total (Memorandum Only)
Revenues							
Property taxes	61,085,942	1,424,442	-	-	-	-	62,510,384
Excise taxes	4,351,346	-	-	-	-	-	4,351,346
Penalties, interest & fines	388,943	2,568	-	199,930	-	-	591,441
Licenses, permits and fees	955,293	3,820	-	4,400	-	-	963,513
Investment income	34,291	99,895	-	2,767	711,597	-	848,550
Departmental	1,548,190	1,966,742	-	-	-	-	3,514,932
Intergovernmental - state	12,881,056	2,512,424	2,315,438	-	-	-	17,708,918
Intergovernmental - federal	137,709	5,916,900	-	-	-	-	6,054,609
User charges	-	-	-	5,748,581	-	-	5,748,581
Other	79,029	1,787,909	216,967	574,924	191,755	-	2,850,584
	81,461,799	13,714,700	2,532,405	6,530,602	903,352	-	105,142,858
Expenditures							
General government	16,807,049	389,022	-	567,795	288,486	-	18,052,352
Public safety	10,075,992	1,175,581	350,000	-	1,200	-	11,602,773
Education	42,633,411	5,379,482	4,527,067	-	285,912	-	52,825,872
Public works	3,237,277	545,309	8,387,744	3,408,835	-	-	15,579,165
Human services	816,870	970,059	20,860	-	-	-	1,807,789
Culture and recreation	554,429	102,300	-	-	-	-	656,729
Debt service	4,231,561	513,363	-	867,923	-	-	5,612,847
State and county assessments	1,127,553	-	-	-	-	-	1,127,553
Capital outlay	471,722	645,676	-	257,659	-	-	1,375,057
	79,955,864	9,720,792	13,285,671	5,102,212	575,598	-	108,640,137
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	1,505,935	3,993,908	(10,753,266)	1,428,390	327,754	-	(3,497,279)
Other financing sources (uses):							
Proceeds from long-term borrowing	-	1,000,000	3,815,108	-	-	-	4,815,108
Transfers between funds	1,618,230	(1,898,786)	64,271	(611,553)	1,117,494	-	289,656.00
	1,618,230	(898,786)	3,879,379	(611,553)	1,117,494	-	5,104,764
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other uses	3,124,165	3,095,122	(6,873,887)	816,837	1,445,248	-	1,607,485
Beginning fund equity	4,989,896	11,538,351	(12,708,060)	4,535,529	9,577,526	162,309,378	180,242,620
Ending fund equity	8,114,061	14,633,473	(19,581,947)	5,352,366	11,022,774	162,309,378	181,850,105

2021 REPORT OF THE CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Capital Planning Committee is charged with the responsibility of planning and subsequently recommending to the Town Administrator a Capital Improvement Program identifying the Town's future capital projects, programs, improvements and acquisitions having a useful life of at least five years and a cost of at least $25,000, including requests for funds for a class of assets that exceeds $25,000.

In evaluating and scheduling the requests of the operating departments, the Committee will use the following criteria, listed in order of priority:

(1) Imminent threat to the health and safety of citizens or property
(2) Requirement of state or federal law or regulation
(3) Existing capital assets that for reasons of age, operability, or functionality have become obsolete or in need of replacement
(4) Improvement in technology or the physical infrastructure that will create greater efficiency, lower operational cost of the asset or program, or achieve an important public safety, educational, economic, or quality of life goal of the Town of Easton
(5) Improvement of a capital asset to facilitate maintenance of operations, not to include ordinary maintenance: these are intended to be expenditures that will avoid costly replacement in the future
(6) Alleviation of an overburdened situation

The Capital Planning Committee is composed of one member of the Town Finance Committee appointed by and from it, one member of the Planning and Zoning Board appointed by and from it, the Town Accountant, ex officio, and four additional members appointed by the Moderator. Committee appointed members serve one-year terms and may be reappointed by their committee for the following year. Members appointed by the Moderator each serve a four-year term, such that the term of office of one member expires each year. Members of the capital planning committee for 2021 were Harris Bloomwald (Chair), Colin McCarthy (Vice Chair), James Condon (through 6/30/21), Lucas Murphy, Rupsa Roy, Gregory Strange (Planning Board Member), Davis Healy (Finance Committee Member through 6/30/21) Kristina DeNapoli (Finance Committee Member) and Wendy Nightingale (Finance Director/Town Accountant).

The fiscal year 2022 capital budget funded in 2021 was as follows:

Department	Brief Description of Item	Initial Fiscal Year of Request	Requested FY2021 for FY2022	Funded FY2021 for FY2022	
Fire/EMS	Replace Engine 14	11/26/2018	750,000	750,000	1
Police	(2) Two Marked Police Vehicles	Annual	117,800	117,800	2
Police	(1) One Marked Animal Control Vehicle	2022	47,000	47,000	1
Fire/EMS	Utility Vehicle with Radios	FY2021	50,000	50,000	1
School	Fitness Center Leak Repair	12/20/2020	295,000	295,000	1
Fire/EMS	Fire Station #3 floor finishing	21/1/2020	49,000		

Department	Brief Description of Item	Initial Fiscal Year of Request	Requested FY2021 for FY2022	Funded FY2021 for FY2022	
School	Entrance Security Improvements	12/15/2020	50,000	50,000	[1]
Fire/EMS	SCBA/Helmet/Boot Cleaner	12/1/2020	30,000		
DPW	Facility Parking Lot Resurfacing	FY2021	200,000	200,000	[1]
DPW	Highway - Replace 1988 F350 w F550 Hooklift	FY2014	128,000	128,000	[1]
DPW	Highway - Replace 2005 Holder w Sidewalk Tractor	FY2014	185,000	185,000	[1]
DPW	Highway - 2021 Loader	FY2014	180,000	180,000	[1]
School	Install New Compressor in Old Gymnasium	1/5/2021	25,000	25,000	[3]
School	Continue replacing compressors/RTU's	12/26/2019	25,000	25,000	[3]
Inspectional Services	2022 Chevrolet Colorado 4x4 pickup	FY2020	31,911	31,911	[1]
DPW	Replace Forklift (1970)	FY2022	30,000	30,000	[1]
DPW	Municipal Facilities Capital Improvements	FY2015	200,000	100,000	[1]
DPW	ADA Transition Plan	FY2020	100,000		
Information Technology	Annual Computer Hardware/Software Replacement	Annual	33,456	33,456	[2]
Information Technology	Server Upgrade	FY2021	36,464	36,464	[2]
School	Computers	FY2021	259,192	259,192	[2]
School	Projectors	FY2021	25,420	25,420	[2]
School	RO School - Flooring Replacement	2/28/2014	20,210	20,210	[3]
School	Replacement of 11 classroom carpets	2/28/2014	46,101	46,101	[3]
DPW	Fire/Police/DPW Facility Feasability Study	FY2021	500,000	500,000	[2]
DPW	GIS Planimetric Update	FY2022	50,000		
Planning	PermitEyes online permitting system upgrade	2020	122,000	122,000	[2]
School	Furniture Replacement	1/17/2020	25,000	25,000	[3]
DPW	Turnpike at Purchase Flashing Beacon	FY2022	25,000		
DPW	Pavement Management Road Funding	FY2014	500,000		
DPW	Highway - Replace 2006 F450 w F550 Hooklift	FY2014	128,000	128,000	[2]
DPW	Highway - Replace 2003 Bobcat w Skid Steer	FY2014	85,000	85,000	[2]
DPW	Bldg/Grds - Replace 2008 Ford F250 w F550 Hooklift	FY2014	128,000		
DPW	Turnpike at Purchase Signal Design	FY2022	350,000		
Sewer	WWTP Membrane Repalcement	FY2022	44,000	44,000	[1]
WATER	Red Mill Rd WTP & Option PFAS Treatment	FY2021	15,400,000	15,400,000	[1]
WATER	PFAS Treatment	FY2022	9,170,000	9,170,000	[1]
WATER	Water Main Replacement	FY2022	1,500,000	1,500,000	[1]
WATER	Vehicle 121- 2012 F250	FY2022	54,000	54,000	[1]
WATER	Vehicle 134 - New 2500/F250	FY2022	54,000	54,000	[1]
	Total		**31,049,554**	**29,717,554**	

[1] Funded at Annual Town Meeting on May 17, 2021.

[2] Funded at Special Town Meeting on November 8, 2021.

[3] Item funded with other available funds, such as budgetary surpluses or grant funds.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

The Budget Subcommittee represents a coalition of Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee members who work together to develop short- and long-term recommendations regarding the town's budget development. The Subcommittee is tasked with taking a collaborative approach that encourages the sharing of information both within the Subcommittee itself as well as with the respective Boards, Committees and Organizations of its members and the community at large. The Subcommittee is in its 16th year of existence.

In 2021 the Budget Subcommittee had several meetings to prepare for Annual Town Meeting and again in the fall to begin the next budget process and review issues surrounding Special Town Meeting.

2021 was a difficult year. While funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements for COVID related expenses have been lifelines, these funding sources will not continue indefinitely. We expect funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) to fill some gaps in our budget. However, these are one-time funds and cannot cure the long-standing Structural Revenue Deficit that hinders the ability of both the town and schools to explore strategic/proactive approaches and instead focuses on regressive/essential approaches.

Capital Planning needs continue to be great for our municipal buildings. The town is looking towards options for bringing those buildings up to a more efficient and appropriate level to serve the community's 21st century needs. The bright spot this past year was the progress made on the Blanche Ames Elementary School Project which is scheduled to be completed by early 2023.

It was an honor to chair this critical committee and I thank all the members for their passion, ideas, and commitment.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Weisman, Chair
Jamie Stebbins, Vice Chair
Jennifer Stacy
Caroline O'Neill
Michael DiPietro
Sherraine Diaz
Connor Read
Lisha Cabral

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee's primary functions are as follows:

1. Make recommendations to the Select Board on the selection of, and scope of services for, an independent auditor.
2. Review the annual financial statements and management reports prepared by the independent auditor and make recommendations with respect thereto.
3. Make recommendations for areas of operations where expanded scope audits or review of the internal controls may be appropriate.
4. Review and make recommendations with respect to the Town's financial management practices and controls; through the Town Administrator, review with the appropriate boards and departments opportunities to improve such practices and controls.
5. Report to the Select Board on the status of recommendations the Committee and/or independent auditor has made during the preceding twelve (12) months.
6. Submit a summary of their work for the preceding calendar year for inclusion in the Town's Annual Report.

The Town's annual financial audit was conducted by Melanson, an independent audit firm located in Andover, Massachusetts. The fiscal 2020 audit report for the year ended June 30, 2020 was the last report completed through December 31, 2021 and the Town received an unqualified opinion; also referred to as a "clean opinion." The Committee met with audit principal Edward Boyd who provided an in-depth review of the financial statements. The results of the fiscal 2020 audit were presented to the Select Board at their meeting via Zoom on December 20, 2021. Work on the fiscal 2021 audit is underway and will be completed in fiscal 2022.

The Audit Committee is comprised of one (1) member of the Select Board, one (1) member of the Finance Committee, one (1) member of the School Committee, and two (2) at-large members. In addition, the Town's Finance Director/Town Accountant, serves as an ex-officio member.

Members and officers as of December 31, 2021 are as follows:

- Leonard Berkowitz, Chair, Member-at-Large
- Kelly Ann Lamb, appointed by the Finance Committee
- Jennifer Starr, appointed by the School Committee
- Marc Lamb, appointed by the Select Board
- Stephanie Elia, Member-at-Large
- Wendy Nightingale, Finance Director/Town Accountant, ex-officio

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to former members Charles King and Jennifer Stacy and recording secretary Roseann Woodford for their service to the Committee during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Audit Committee

2021 REPORT OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit of the books and accounts of the Town of Easton for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 was made by Melanson, Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the report is available online and is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Danielle Sicard, MMC/CMMC
Town Clerk

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Overview

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the overall operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of the Town's infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, water, drainage, sewer, municipal buildings, traffic control devices, fields, and trees. The Department is comprised of the Administration Division, Water Division, Highway Division, and Buildings and Grounds Division.

Management

David Field, P.E., Director of Public Works
Rich Tierney, Water Operations Manager
Jay Conceison, Highway Supervisor
Joshua Ford, Water System Supervisor
Todd Texeira, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

The Administration, Highway, and Buildings and Grounds divisions are located at 130 Center Street. The Water Division is located at 417 Bay Road.

Activities and Projects

Beginning in early March 2020 COVID-19 became a primary focus for Easton along with the state and the rest of the world. In 2021, The DPW continued to play a major role in the Town's response to COVID-19. Initially DPW staff was responsible for decontaminating all Town buildings including police and fire apparatus utilizing electrostatic sprayers. As guidance on the virus evolved, daily decontamination was halted over the summer of 2021. DPW has continued to provide clean water, sewer treatment, solid waste and recycling services, and operation and maintenance of our infrastructure which includes roads and buildings. DPW has also been supporting schools, town departments, town meetings, and election setups with advanced protocols, cleaning, disinfection, posting of signage, installation of virus guards, purchase and installation of air purifiers, purchase of PPE and cleaning supplies, and HVAC modifications.

During 2021 we had thirteen (13) snow and ice events with a total accumulation of 26.8 inches of snow. During that time the DPW applied 1,499 tons of road salt, 11,992 gallons of magnesium chloride, and 41,100 gallons of salt brine. The total cost of snow and ice operations for the calendar year was $380,114.

While snow and ice removal is a typical function for any DPW, the importance of the task and the preparations necessary cannot be overstated. I want to recognize the hard work and dedication of all of the DPW employees including Highway Supervisor Jay Conceison for their efforts. The Easton DPW is extremely well prepared for the snow and ice season. Each year, employees receive specialized training in the latest techniques, equipment, and materials used to combat snow and ice. In addition, the DPW has implemented an advanced automatic vehicle location (AVL) system to bolster our capabilities and operational awareness. The DPW has fully implemented our salt brine operations utilizing our salt brine generator, 10,000 gallons of storage, and 3 direct liquid application tanks. Having the ability to create and spread salt brine adds another tool to our snow and ice operations toolbox.

In 2021, 31 streetlights were maintained by DPW. In 2013, the Town took ownership of 1,450 streetlights from National Grid. Purchasing the streetlights has resulted in an annual savings of approximately $100,000 per year. Initially, the DPW contracted out the maintenance of streetlights to Dagle Electric, but took over the maintenance of the streetlights in July 2015. All Town lights have also been converted to LED. The conversion to LED streetlights has resulted in an annual energy savings of approximately $57,000.

In January of 2021 the DPW published the recommended FY2022-FY2024 Pavement Management Plan. The plan recommended spending approximately $2.0 million on various pavement repairs over three years, and approximately $1.0 million in the first year. Some of the highlights of the work completed in 2021 include the paving of Pond Street and Black Brook Road. Sidewalks were also replaced on Pond Street and Black Brook Road. A new retaining wall was also constructed on Pond Street by the DPW. In addition, crack sealing was performed on various roads throughout Town. In summary, the DPW completed improvements to 27,674 linear feet of roads at a total cost of $737,000. The overall road surface rating (RSR) is 71 and the backlog of needed repairs remained at approximately $19 million. It should be noted that in addition to requiring the use of Superpave mix designs and QA/QC testing and inspection of installed pavement, the DPW again exclusively used warm mix asphalt this year. Warm mix asphalt is similar to conventional hot mix asphalt with the exception that it contains an additive that allows it to be compacted at lower temperatures. This ability to be compacted at lower temperatures allows the mix to be produced at lower temperatures thereby reducing emissions and extending the asphalt binder life.

The DPW oversees the operation and maintenance of North Easton Village Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and collection system, the Queset sewer collection system, and the Five Corners sewer collection system. The current WWTP operations contractor is Weston & Sampson. In 2021 the North Easton Village WWTP treated 5,321,000 gallons of wastewater. During this time the average daily flow to the plant was 14,144 gallons per day. In addition, the Queset and Five Corners collections systems collected and transported 1,320,000 gallons and 15,366,000 gallons of wastewater respectively. The total wastewater collection volume for 2021 from the three systems was 22,007,000 gallons, and the average daily wastewater volume was 60,293 gallons.

The DPW hosted Household Hazardous Waste Day on May 1, 2021. In recognition of Arbor Day on April 30, 2021, the DPW planted a tree on Day Street. But due to COVID-19 we were unable to hold the annual Water Division Open House.

The DPW has continued its GIS efforts in the areas of data development, web service and application deployment, map publishing, support for Town departments, and system administration. GIS continues to support DPW operations and other department activities such as hydrant flushing, pedestrian ramp inventory, and storm water inspections. The DPW also hosts a GIS application for residents to report issues. In 2021, 173 issues were reported by the public.

The DPW continues to support the Assessor's department by maintaining parcel information to meet state level requirements. Continued data improvements were made in developing easements based on past recorded plans. A more complete data set related to land records helps to identify a more accurate inventory of Town assets.

DPW also assisted the Town Clerk's office for create new precincts based on the 2020 census.

GIS system administration is ongoing and includes database maintenance, system upgrades and programming/scripting related to the maintenance of web services and applications, data publishing, and system integration.

On October 27th a significant nor'easter brought down trees which knocked out power to 61% of Easton and closed 20 roads. The DPW worked throughout the early morning hours and late into the night clearing trees. The emergency operations center (EOC) at the DPW was activated and DPW and Fire tracked a total of 131 issues. Power was not fully restored for 5 days and DPW crews continued to clear trees and debris through the month of November.

The DPW continued to work to advance the design and construction of the Depot Street corridor project. The project includes roadway, sidewalk, and drainage improvements from Fox Ridge Road to Washington Street. The DPW worked with BETA on the design of the project. presented several options for the signalization and improvement of the intersection of Center Street and Depot Street to the Historical Commission and the Board of Selectmen. The 25% design public hearing was held on June 12, 2018. 75% design plans were submitted to MassDOT in February 2019. The DPW worked with BETA, Town Counsel, and a property appraiser to complete the acquisition of needed temporary and permanent easements. Town Meeting approved authorization for the Town to acquire the easements in November 2019. 100% design plans were submitted to MassDOT in February 2020. The Select Board voted the Order of Taking on August 10, 2020 to complete the acquisition of 264 easements from 117 properties with total damages of $785,640. Bids were opened in January 2021 and a contract was awarded to RJV Construction of Canton, MA. Work began at the end of March 2021. Water line work was completed over the summer of 2021 and a significant portion of the drainage work was also completed. In addition, roadway widening work, sidewalk work, and paving of the portion from Newell Circle to School Street was completed along with the installation of guardrail and curbing. Overhead utility relocation began along the entire project length.

MassDOT has approved the Project Initiation Form (PIF) for the intersection improvements and signalization of Elm Street and Washington Street. Previously, the DPW has been working with BETA Group to develop conceptual design options for intersection, hold public outreach sessions, and submit the Project Need Form (PNF). BETA Group submitted 25% design plans to MassDOT in August 2018. OCPC has programmed this project in the FYY2025 TIP. The DPW will continue to work with BETA and MassDOT to bring this project to 100% design prior to being advertised for bids.

The DPW has hired TEC to begin project initiation and preliminary design for the Foundry Street corridor project which runs between Robert Drive and Depot Street. In May 2021 the Town received a Community Choice Grant of $225,000 which will be used to pay for the preliminary design. The project will include roadway improvements, sidewalks, a signalized intersection, and the replacement of 3 stone culverts. The preliminary estimate for the project is $14.5 million and TIP funds will be sought for the construction. Base survey and borings adjacent to the three bridges were completed in 2021.

The DPW along with Police, Fire, and the Town Administrators office began the planning for the replacement of the existing DPW facility, Water Division, and the Police and Fire Station #1. Town Meeting appropriated $500,000 in November to begin a feasibility study. A request for qualifications was advertised to hire an OPM for the project. Selected firms were interviewed and PMA was chosen as the OPM. PMA will assist in the process to hire the project designer and begin the feasibility study. It is anticipated that the feasibility process will take between 12 and 18 months.

As part of our continuing Green Communities efforts, the DPW applied for $91,741 of grant funds for lighting improvements at Police and Fire Station #1, and Fire Station #3. Easton was awarded the grant in July and entered into a contract with EnergySource in September. EnergySource completed the lighting improvements in December.

The DPW and Water Division are actively working with Environmental Partners to design a new greensand water treatment plant to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese from wells 3, 5, and 7. This new plant will be located on Red Mill Road. The pilot study for this treatment plant was completed in 2019 and funding for the design was appropriated at Town Meeting in June 2020. 50% design plans were submitted in March 2021. 90% plans were submitted in June 2021. Final plans were submitted in August 2021. General and sub-bidder prequalification was completed in September 2021. Bids were opened on November 23, 2021 and Hart Engineering Corp was the apparent low bidder with a bid of $12,123,900. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2022. The total project cost is currently estimated at $15.4 million.

The DPW and Water Division are also working with Environmental Partners on a PFAS preparedness study and permeant mitigation measures. The Town received a $200,000 grant from the MassDEP to fund the initial study and Town Meeting appropriated $9.17 million in May of 2021 for the construction of three PFAS treatment plants for wells 1, 2, and 4. Preliminary design drawings were submitted in June 2021. Conceptual design drawings were submitted in August 2021. Permitting of the project through site plan approval and conservation was completed in November and December. Bids were also received for the pressure vessels due to anticipated long lead times. Calgon Carbon Corporation is the apparent low bidder with a bid price of $1,131,822. Award of the vessel contract in anticipated in January 2022 and the full project is scheduled for bidding in the spring of 2022.

The DPW prepared and submitted a Notice of Intent in September 2018 for coverage under the revised NPDES Stormwater General Permit. The revised permit requires extensive public education and outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, improved municipal good housekeeping and pollution prevention, and implementation of measures to reduce nitrogen loading and turbidity over the life of the permit. In 2021 the DPW performed 67 outfall inspections and sampled 32 of those for indications of illicit connections. The annual report for year 3 of the permit was submitted in October. DPW will continue implementing the permit and file annual reports each year.

The DPW also worked with BETA Group to advance the design of the Main Street undergrounding project. This project is funded by a $2.5 million MassWorks Grant and a private contribution of $250,000. Plans and estimates were presented to the Select Board in April 2020. Due to the impact to businesses and traffic, and the total estimated cost of the project, BETA and DPW redesigned and scaled the project down to be within budget, reduce the overall impact of construction, and make tangible improvements to allow for future development of several parcels. Unfortunately, the undergrounding portion of the project could not proceed without obtaining easements from the private developer. The Town and DPW went forward with the roadway improvements which included curb line changes, repaving, and the installation of raised crosswalks, new sidewalks, and line striping. The development of wayfinding signs is ongoing with our landscape architect.

The DPW prepared a RFQ for the Town Offices CPA Project. This project will include replacing, rebuilding, or repairing exterior ornamental woodwork, wood trim, and gutters, as well as providing new storm windows and stripping and painting wood features as directed. Town Meeting approved $1,450,000 for the project. Responses were reviewed by the Town Offices Designer Selection Committee and DPW recommended award of the design contract to SSV. A contract was executed in June and the project design began in July 2021. Final design was completed in December and the project is out to bid with a bid opening scheduled for the end of January 2022.

Beginning in 2020, the Highway and Building and Grounds Divisions worked collaboratively on the High School Practice Field Expansion project to clear the site, remove 13,500 cubic yards of unsuitable material, removed 500 cubic yards of rock, screened and placed 3,500 cubic yards of gravel, screened and graded 3,000 cubic yards of loam, installed a drainage system, underground electric, irrigation, and seeded the project. Installation of the infield, fences, and a walking path are expected to be completed in the winter of 2022

The Buildings and Grounds Division performed the following tasks in 2021:

- Completed 1,472 building related work orders
    - HVAC – 386 School/92 Town
    - Electrical – 333 School/357 Town
    - Carpenter – 18 School/286 Town
- Grounds work
    - 2,252 hours for School athletic fields
    - 1,318 hours for School grounds
    - 913 hours for Town fields
    - 2,179 hours for Town grounds, cemeteries, and playgrounds
    - 2,634 hours for trees
    - 1,087 hours for general labor (moving, setups, etc.)
- Removed storm windows and installed AC units in buildings
- Setup voting with special COVID precautions
- Setup for Town Meeting with special COVID precautions
- Fire extinguisher inspections all Town buildings
- COVID-19 Disinfection of town buildings
- Town and school boiler Inspections
- HVAC COVID-19 repairs at all schools and town buildings per guidelines
- Emergency response repairs at Easton Middle School for a car that drove into and damaged the cafeteria
- Completed fire alarm inspections and repairs at all schools and town buildings
- Completion of the OA stadium elevator project
- Streetlight repairs

- Generator PM's all town buildings
- Removal of fencing, irrigation, scoreboard, and infield mix at Parkview fields for Blanche Ames School Project
- OA Chiller Investigation for AC in classrooms
- RO 1st floor Screen Replacements
- Frothingham Hall backyard renovation including walkways and Bocce Court
- Installed new water lines at the Town Pool
- Installed wiring for the new Police phone system
- Installed a new key system for the Water Division
- RO boiler repair
- OA Stair repairs for entrance and loading dock
- Setup for 9/11 ceremony at Fire Station #1
- Remove and install new grease trap at EMS
- Assisted with demolition of the house and outbuildings at 100 Baldwin Street
- Setup for vaccine clinic at EMS
- Remove AC units and install storm windows at Town Hall
- Performed elevator inspections
- Setup for OA Homecoming lights and disco ball
- Fire # 1 - Renovation of bunk rooms and captain's room
- Install all new locks (Easton Key System) for waste water facilities
- Install all new locks (Easton Key System) for water facilities
- Setups for COVID vaccine and testing clinics
- School building inspections with Fire and Building Departments
- Sprinkler repairs RO

The Highway Division performed the following tasks in 2021:

- Performed roadway pothole patching
- Cleaned and inspected drainage outfalls and culverts
- Conducted spring and fall road sweeping
- Repainted stop lines and crosswalks
- Cleaned 264 catch basins
- Performed roadside flail mowing
- Demolished the house and out buildings at 100 Baldwin Street
- Storm cleanup and traffic control
- Removal of a beaver dam at Picker Pond
- Installation of a sewer service and pump chamber at Fire Station #3
- Installation of a new outfall pipe at the Town Pool
- Removal of roadside stumps from October nor'easter
- Cleaned and inventoried mechanics shop areas
- Removed and replaced existing sidewalk on Black Brook Road
- Completed the forming and pouring on Pond Street retaining wall
- Rebuilt and adjusted catch basins on Black Brook Road for paving
- Installed new bollards on Main Street
- Completed concrete sidewalk repairs on Lincoln Street
- Cleaned and organized DPW for hazardous waste day
- Rebuilt a stone retaining wall on Pond Street for new sidewalk installation
- Removed the parking lot islands at the Police Station for paving project
- Reconfigured parking lot lighting at the Police Station

- Repaved the Police Station parking Lot
- Repaved the DPW parking lot
- Demolished and removed four concrete silo foundations at Sam Wright Farm
- Spreaders were mounted/installed on trucks
- All spreaders were calibrated
- Plows were inspected and new cutting edges installed as needed
- Annual vehicle inspections were completed

Some of the other projects that the DPW has been involved with this year include:

- Landfill monitoring and flare operation
- Sewer permitting and inspections
- Subdivision and site plan reviews
- Environmental, Health and Safety Program review for DPW facilities
- Traffic Safety Committee review and technical support
- Green Communities annual reporting
- ESCO Project annual reporting and measurement and verification
- Center School MSBA Project

I would like to thank all of the employees of the Department of Public Works for their hard work and dedication throughout the year, especially in terms of their professionalism and duties in providing crucial services to the residents of Easton during the continued COVID-19 global pandemic. In addition, I would like to thank the staff of the Administration Division, Nancy McSweeney, Leon Scott, and Greg Swan, as well as Water Operations Manager Rich Tierney for their support during the year. I would also like to recognize the hard work of my division supervisors, Josh Ford, Todd Texeira, and Jay Conceison.

Finally, I would like to thank Michael Berry and Patrick "Zip" Lordan for their many years of service to the DPW and congratulate them on their retirements. I would also like to welcome the department's newest employees, Matt Grosschedl, Civil Engineer, who started in October, as well as Derek Clapp, Buildings and Grounds, and Kevin Geary, Highway who both started in November.

David J. Field, P.E.
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer
dfield@easton.ma.us
(508) 230-0800

2021 ANNUAL REPORT EASTON WATER DIVISION

Overview
The Easton Water Division mission is to provide the customers of Easton with the highest quality of water, by administering water quality programs and conducting perpetual system maintenance. This includes the daily operations, and future capital improvements of the Water Division's infrastructure, facilities, and properties.

Activities and Projects
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create operational challenges for the Water Division in the year of 2021. Supply chain issues and the global labor shortages have impacted our supply of repair items, stock and inventories, and maintenance services. These impacts are also being felt on our two major construction projects, for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the Red Mill Water Treatment facility. The manufacturing of the pressure vessels was identified as a critical item and our consultant informed us this item was now going to take fifty weeks to be delivered. In anticipation of these issues we bid out those items in the fall of 2021 in an effort to not slow down the project. The Water Division staff also provided site clearing, performance testing of our wells, hydrant flow testing, and support for both of these treatment facilities. The Water Division staff also assisted RJV Construction on a lengthy water main replacement project on Depot Street which was completed as part of the roadway reconstruction process.

The Water Division staff also assisted in the site review of the water main installation, testing, and approval at Easton Avalon II, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School, and the Blanche Ames Elementary School.

The following is our pumping record from our wells in 2021.

Month	Gallons	Month	Gallons
January	43,499,000	July	59,683,000
February	40,335,000	August	66,361,000
March	44,559,000	September	55,104,000
April	46,414,000	October	51,460,000
May	64,212,000	November	41,216,000
June	73,947,000	December	41,447,000
		Total Pumped	628,192,000

The maximum amount pumped in one day, was 2,756,000 on August 2, 2021

The Water Division responded to 2225 service and emergency calls.
Connected 37 new services for a total of 7,612 active services
Replaced 341 meters
Renewed 1 service
Repaired 22 service leaks
Repaired 17 water main breaks
3 – 6" main, 13 – 8" main, 0 – 10" main, 1 – 12" main
Repaired 6 hydrants
Replaced 1 hydrant
Routine maintenance on 42 hydrants

In 2021, new subdivisions, and new water main improvements added to our system:
343' of 6" water main
3,541' of 8" water main
0' of 10" water main
7,334' of 12" water main
0' of 16" water main
17 new fire hydrants
58 new valves

There are a total of 168.2 miles of water main, 1,461 hydrants, and 3,424 valves in our system.

The Water Division performed 91,706 meter readings during the past year. We processed 31,142 routine water bills, 382 property transfer bills, and 325 miscellaneous bills.

The backflow prevention program began in 1989, and to date we have completed 1635 surveys of facilities to protect the distribution system from back siphonage or backpressure. We have 376 testable devices in the system, 208 double check valves, and 168 reduce pressure zone devices. This year 517 backflow device tests were performed.

In order to meet the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, the following samples were processed for analysis:

498	Bacteriological
16	Haloacetic Acid (HAA5)
6	Radium 226 & Radium 228
5	Inorganics
2	Perchlorate
2	Synthetic Organic Compounds (SOC)
1	Sodium
6	Nitrate
1	Nitrite
8	Secondary Contaminants
16	Trihalomethanes
3	Volatile organic compounds (VOC's)
62	PFAS6

Our 50 kilowatt (KW) Solar Photovoltaic Project at Pumping Station #2 has been in operation for ten years. This year we produced 53,556 kilowatt hours (kWh). Since the system was commissioned in September of 2010 we have generated 630,825 kWh of clean energy.

Leak surveys are important component to maintaining our distribution network of water mains, and water services. Identifying underground leaks early, preventing unaccounted for water loss, and lost revenue. The COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced this operation due to our workforce protocols associated with sharing of specialized listening acoustic equipment

We have completed our 28th consecutive annual system wide unidirectional flushing (UDF) program. Unidirectional flushing is a technique that removes minerals and biological deposits in water lines by moving water at high velocities in a single direction. This program is one of our most effective means of maintaining water quality and delivering safe drinking water to your tap.

37th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day was held on May 1, 2021. A record number of collections were seen in 2021 due to the prior year being cancelled due to the pandemic.

I want to also thank my staff for their continuous support; Karen Gallo, Joshua Ford, Joseph Richard, Michael O'Toole, Brian O'Neill, Joseph Charron, Andy Howarth, Cory Sturtevant, Michael Cardoza. Their continuous service, determination, and commitment to the water systems needs and the community. This reflects the pride and professionalism, that we serve the residents of Easton by our actions.

Richard Tierney
Water Operations Manager
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(508) 230-0850

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Select Board:

I am pleased to submit the 2021 Annual Report for the Easton Fire Department for your consideration.

As of May 3, 2021, I became the Chief of the Easton Fire Department. It has been a fantastic year getting to know this great town, its residents, and firefighters. I have learned that there is excellent cooperation and support throughout town departments and many great organizations in Easton. Above all is the steady and strong support from our residents that is apparent every day. I consider myself fortunate to be a part of this community.

As in past years, we continue to have members within the department that oversee particular areas provide their own submission for the Annual Report. Below you will read in their words how 2021 was for the Easton Fire Department.

The Easton Fire Department at the Swearing-in Ceremony of Chief Justin Alexander

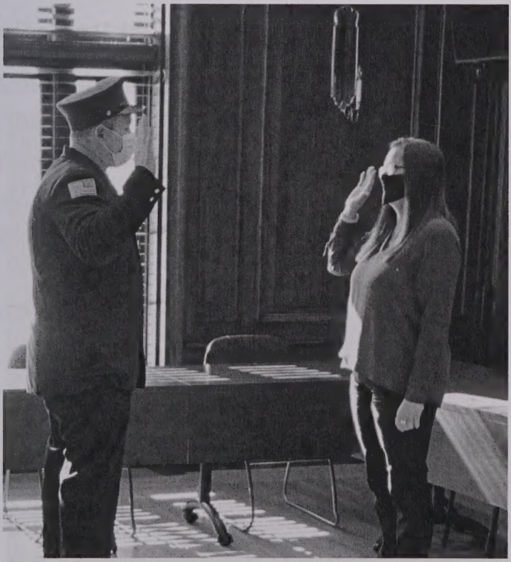
Deputy Chief Report
Submitted by Deputy Chief Jonathan Carroll

2021 was the busiest year in our department's history, with 4100 emergency calls for service. Due to the lingering pandemic, this increase in call volume came alongside numerous COVID-19 vaccine and testing clinics for Easton's residents and employees. Our members took this in stride, ensuring these clinics were staffed while continuing to provide the top-notch service the residents of Easton have come to expect.

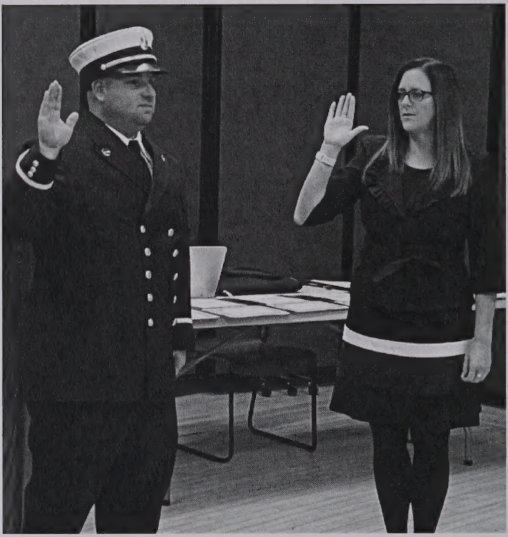
The department also saw movement throughout our ranks. We are happy to welcome Firefighter/Paramedic Gordon Crawford, appointed in June. He comes to Easton after serving two years on the Lakeville Fire Department. Easton Fire also saw the appointment of Justin Alexander as our Fire Chief and myself to the Deputy Chief position in May. Finally, in September, Jeffery Dupuis was appointed Lieutenant of Group 4. These appointments go a long way in assuring the continuance of leadership and department stability.

The department implemented an online records management system (RedNmx) in partnership with the SEMRECC regional dispatch center. We converted paper copies of records to digital files, allowing them to be secured to a cloud server that can be accessed anywhere. Our dedicated staff took the time to inventory and upload every piece of department equipment logging its location, in-service date, and end of useful life date. This database gives us a real-time checklist, allowing the department to track our equipment's age and condition.

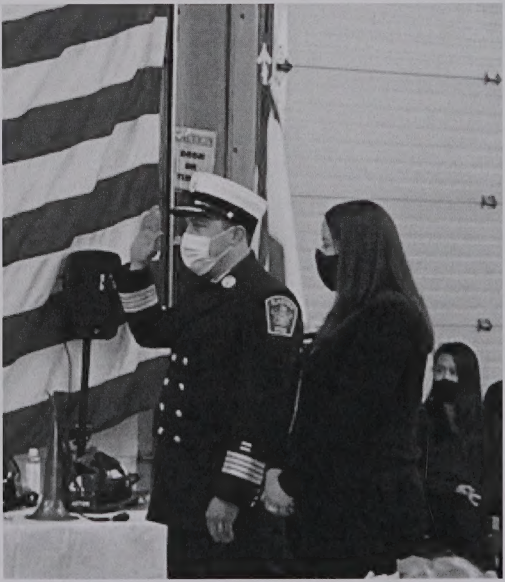
Easton Fire secured $92,253 in grant funding through state and federal programs. This funding allowed the department to obtain personal protective gear, replace a compressor used to fill our self-contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.), train jointly with the Easton Police Department, and help to fund the department's S.A.F.E. program.



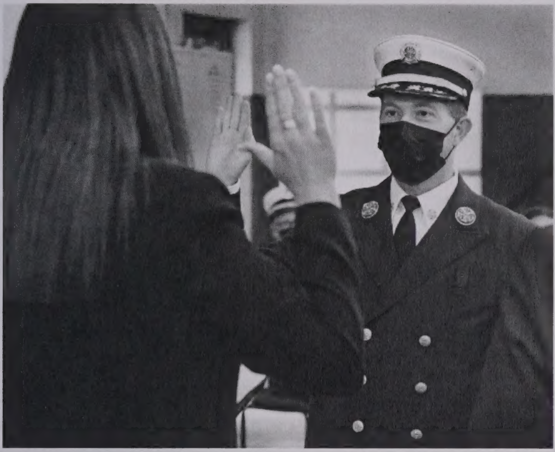
Firefighter Gordon Crawford being sworn in by Town Clerk Danielle Sicard.



Lt. Jeffery Dupuis being sworn in by Town Clerk Danielle Sicard.



Deputy Chief Jonathan Carroll Being Sworn-in accompanied by his wife, Kylie.



Fire Chief Justin Alexander being sworn-in by Town Clerk Danielle Sicard

2021 Statistics

Animal Incident	6
Assist Police	8
Carbon Monoxide Inv.	106
Canceled/Good Intent/Unfounded	95
Citizen Complaint/Burning	12
Electrical Wiring/Equip. Problem	8
Elevator Emergency	0
Fire-Brush/Grass/Woods	12
Fire-Chimney	5
Fire- Dumpster/Rubbish	1
Fire- Structure	6
Fire- Vehicle	1
Fire Alarm- Comm./Res.	283
Flammable/Combustible gas leak	1
Gas Odor/Leak	13
Oil Leak/Spill	2
Overpressure/Excessive Heat	0
Hazardous Materials.	5
Health/Welfare/Public Assist	301
Lockout-Auto/Home	72
Medical Emergency	2706
Misc.	37
Motor Vehicle Crash	214
Mutual Aid (Given)	23

Smoke/Steam/Odor	10
Sprinkler Activation	7
Tree/Limbs/Wires Down	150
Water Problem	13
Total:	**4100**

Fire Prevention
Submitted by Captain John Dzialo

The role of fire prevention can be summarized as the following: Keeping people safe through education and code compliance. Our Fire Prevention Office expands on this mission statement through several services we provide in Easton. From permitting to inspections, fire drills to life safety training, the Fire Prevention Office professionally offers its services focusing on the safety of our residents.

Fire Alarm

System Diagnostic Responses	624

Inspections/Permits

Burning Permits (Agricultural)	4
Burning Permits (Residential)	1069
Fire Alarm/Sprinkler Disconnects	6
Fuel Storage/Tank Truck Permits	4
Life Safety Inspection (Incl. Schools)	15
Hot Works	7
Miscellaneous Permits	1
Oil Burning Equipment (Tanks/Burners)	69
Propane Storage	74
Propane Cylinder Exchange	1
Smoke/CO Detector Inspections	512
Underground Tank Removals	6
Unvented Gas Appliances	1

Life Safety Inspections (Conducted with the Building Dept.)

Stonehill College (entire campus)	60
Chapter 304 – (for alcohol sales)	24
Easton Public Schools	6

Plan Review

Building Applications	255
Residential Solar applications	45

School Fire Drills

4 per school year for all seven schools

2021 Department Training Report
Submitted by Captain Michael Greene

Training in 2021 represented the Fire department's ability to quickly identify a problem, form a plan of action, address the issue as safely as possible. The problem was the limitations of social distancing and still needing to keep personnel current with information and skills required of the profession. The most significant complication was delivering a training program of traditional hands-on skills while reducing the risk of infection.

We contracted with Lexipol and used their Fire Rescue 1 Academy to assign a training curriculum of online classes to the members. These are designed to address a monthly training topic followed by a monthly online zoom meeting amongst the workgroups. It is intended to be a stop-gap measure until it became safer to gather for in-person training again. This added up to nearly 800 total hours of online training, with many members taking the personal initiative to explore the available catalog courses on their own as well.

The warmer weather and decreased infection numbers allowed the members to resume training in earnest. This included the return of the spontaneous station drill or a pre-plan walkthrough and discussion that gave the ability to brush up on hands-on skills and techniques as groups. Other topics trained on are Rapid Intervention (firefighters saving firefighters), search techniques, ventilation, power saw operation, and emergency escape procedures (bailouts).

In July, under the new administration of Chief Alexander, we began an aggressive campaign to return to fundamentals to see where the department was skills-wise. Taking advantage of every opportunity available, the department was able to secure two training props, a live-fire/ventilation simulator, a maze/search trailer, and the purchase of a forcible entry prop that was on the training wish list for years. Chief Alexander also conducted pump training with all members to confirm operational alignment with all groups. In culmination, the department took part in a live-fire burn day at the Fall River Fire Training Academy, where members could practice all these skills in unison through multiple evolutions.

In December, Chief Alexander was able to procure a live fire prop. This represents a boon for training, greatly expanding the opportunities available to the department.

In conclusion, organized training was a challenge considering the limitations placed on the department. We were always able to find a solution and the motivated members of the department made it work. The department is as prepared and proficient as it has ever been and looks forward to further development.

Emergency Medical Services
Submitted by Captain Evan Malone

The Easton Fire Department's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) division had a year like no other managing a pandemic but still offering upgrades in service, equipment, and training.

2021 showed an unprecedented 26% increase in our ambulance transports from the previous year. Our yearly transports by ambulance were at a record high of 2064. This represents the most active year recorded in requests for medical care from the Easton Fire Department.

Our paramedics are trained in the most current Personnel Protective Equipment advisories to keep the public and our employees safe. Our staff thoroughly clean our ambulances and equipment after each patient contact to ensure no resident experiences a potential exposure.

We conduct regular infection control training to keep all employees updated on the most recent recommendations as a department; every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of those we serve. We are committed to keeping all residents healthy during these difficult times.

EMS OPERATIONS

The Easton Fire Department currently staffs 2 ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances 24 hours a day. This is complemented by 2 Advanced EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) fire engines. The Easton Fire Department was able to staff our ambulances with Paramedics 100% of the time when a request for medical aid was received.

Our department has exclusively hired paramedics/Firefighters since 1996, allowing us to provide the best medical care to the Town.

Every newly hired Paramedic undergoes a rigorous Paramedic Orientation Program to ensure that they meet our high standards of care and service to Easton residents. Every year we strive to improve our EMS service, and 2021 was no exception. We ensure we have the latest technology and equipment and constantly train our staff in current practices.

Community Health and Paramedicine
Submitted by – Timothy Vamosi, EMS/ MIH/ Public Health Officer

The Easton Fire Department expanded its services in 2021 with the addition of a Community Emergency Medical Services program. This program is designed to identify and target needs in the community that will invest in proactive and preventative care. The program seeks to have our residents remain in the community by providing support that limits the need for emergency care whenever possible. In collaboration with the Town of Easton Department of Health and Community Services, this system was offered programs such as services for children with special health care needs, community health clinics, residential sharps collection, and child passenger safety in vehicles. Information on these programs and how to participate can be found on the Town of Easton and Easton Fire Department websites.

In addition to establishing new programs and opportunities, the Community Health and Paramedicine program continued to service our resident's needs amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. The proactive prevention methods were implemented by offering COVID-19 testing during infection peaks, with EFD and HCS staff working together to test hundreds of residents in need. Preventative care was also implemented in the vaccination of 2,231 persons. These vaccines incorporated the initial doses and booster vaccines. The vaccines were offered to a wide range of age groups and included public clinics and in-home vaccine delivery. The delivery of these vaccines required EFD and HCS staff to collaborate and coordinate state, local, and private company resources to meet the dynamic demands of obtaining the resources necessary to achieve the high level of service provided.

This program saw the inclusion of new technologies such as ultrasound to develop innovative services. The department also sought out and established relationships with higher educational institutes such as the PC Institute to practice airway technologies, surgical airway procedures, and many other invasive life-saving interventions to continually increase the level of care it offers by expanding traditional training.

The department looks forward to implementing the groundwork laid this year for further services as we move into 2022. The challenges of 2021 provided the opportunity for our members to take on the emergent needs of the community while also providing proactive preventive care.

2021 Annual Student and Senior S.A.F.E. Program

Submitted by Lieutenant John McCormick

Overview

The Fire Department uses the Student and Senior SAFE programs for fire safety information and safe behaviors concerning many in-home and outdoor activities. We have a specific curriculum that we deliver to the community based on age-appropriate topics for our school-age groups and also provide essential fire and home safety information to our senior population.

Program Activities and Projects

2021 was another challenging year for the SAFE program due to the restrictions we have had from Covid. We were able to get back to in-person learning in the schools. We had a very successful year returning to teaching key fire safety lessons with elementary-age students in the K-3rd grade ages. We also were able to get back into the middle school to do our standard program with sixth through eighth-grade students this year. The SAFE program also extends to our early education private schools for Pre-K and Kindergarten in town. We deliver key fire safety concepts targeted to the specific age group of the students by grade. We follow guidelines approved by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services program administrators to build our classroom presentations. We are continuously sending our members to continuing education courses to ensure they are cutting edge of fire safety training initiatives.

The Senior SAFE program is as strong as ever to help protect this vital group of residents. The pandemic has presented challenges concerning in-person education and meetings with our senior population. We are cautious of our seniors from being in larger gatherings. However, we have been able to do many individual home visits with seniors requesting help with in-home fire, fall safety, and home safety issues. We also offer a program to deliver and install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms free of charge in the homes of seniors in need.

The SAFE program offers many public education opportunities to our students and residents in Easton. We host several Fire Station tours to students and community groups. We host annual open houses every year and invite the community to come to our station to have fun and talk about fire and life safety.

The department has been expanding the program in recent years to reach more age groups and do more community education and outreach in Town. We have more department members than ever before working with the SAFE program. We just added four new members this year. In 2021 we were able to do in-person education with well over 2,000 students. We were able to offer services to hundreds of seniors in need. The department will continue to deliver top-level public education and community outreach to serve best the Town of Easton in the future.

CERT

Submitted by Fire Chief Justin Alexander

Easton is extremely fortunate to have a robust and dedicated Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Our CERT team is comprised of over 30 volunteer residents who dedicate themselves to helping our community during emergencies and other events. These amazing volunteers step up time after time to help at Covid vaccination and testing sites, assist at significant community events, and help public safety personnel mitigate emergencies as needed.

Many communities are not able to stand up such capable teams. Our CERT, team led by Pam Berglund, is one of the best. I am personally grateful to the members of the Easton CERT team for being there away from their families when the call to service comes down. Volunteerism is hard to find these days, but not in Easton. Easton CERT is a valuable resource to all residents and will continue long into the future.

To reach the Easton Fire Department for non-emergency assistance, please call (508) 230-0750

For all emergencies, please dial 911

Respectfully Submitted,

Justin Alexander
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2021, the police department had (36) thirty-six police officers, two civilian administrative assistants, one animal control officer, and (20) twenty special police officers. The police department is responsible for protecting and serving the law enforcement needs of our community. There are (30) thirty police officers assigned to the uniformed Patrol Division which is made up of three shifts (Midnights, Days, and Evenings). There were (4) four detectives assigned to the Detective Division. They are responsible for investigating narcotic violations, sexual assaults, robberies, breaking and entering to homes/ businesses, and several other crimes. Detective Daniel Perry was assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration's Worcester Tactical Diversion Squad (WTDS). The Taskforce combines DEA resources with those of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in an innovative effort to investigate, disrupt and dismantle those suspected of violating the Control Substance Act.

Deputy Chief of Police Keith Boone is the executive officer and oversees the daily operations of the department. Sergeant Andrew Salisbury serves as our firearms licensing officer. Officer Michelle Franey serves as our domestic violence officer. We maintain our affiliation with the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (METROLEC) which is a consortium of over 43 municipal police departments and law enforcement agencies trained and equipped for almost every possible contingency. As a member agency, we have immediate access to Canine Units, Computer Crime Units, Crisis Negotiations, Special Weapons and Tactics Teams, and Mobile Operations Motorcycle Unit when assistance is necessary. I served on the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council's Executive Board.

Several members of the department attended 40 hours of Community Crisis Intervention Team (CCIT) training in Taunton. Our goal is to organize and develop community partnerships, identify and respond to persons with disabilities who are in crisis, explore strategies to improve outcomes and provide a compassionate response that prioritizes treatment over incarceration, and train and equip members to assist other communities in identifying the components and collaboration necessary to replicate similar CCIT initiatives.

Officer Christopher LaCount was assigned to our Community Outreach Unit (COU). The COU works with community members who are at high risk of victimization including the elderly and juvenile population; those who are experiencing substance use and mental health disorders; and a variety of other duties in support of patrol operations. Traditional policing efforts most often provide superficial attention to these types of problems which inevitably results in citizen frustration and recurring calls for service. The COU will create connections between law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency services and individuals with substance use and mental health disorders so that resources can be provided to those in crisis. In addition, the COU may be assigned to work on other quality of life issues.

In November 2021, the department received a Body Worn Camera (BWC) grant award of $48,767 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The grant money will be used to outfit all police officers with body worn cameras and to buy equipment for data storage.

The department modified its operations as a result of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), including employee health screenings at shift change, remote roll calls, handling of non-emergency calls and complaints on the telephone, and building cleaning and disinfection.

I am proud to be a police officer in this community and grateful to work with the men and women who serve this community every day with pride.

Total Calls for Service	**16,632**

Crimes Against Persons

Murder	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0
Suicides	3
Attempted Suicides	9
Rapes/ Sexual Assaults	19
Robberies	4
Aggravated/Simple Assault	70

Property Crimes

Burglary/ Breaking & Entering	13
Theft from a Building	15
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	38
Motor Vehicle Theft	13
Shoplifting	15
All other Larcenies	48

Custodial/ Non-Custodial Arrests

Total Custodial Arrests	109
Total Non-Custodial Arrests	221
Driving Under the Influence	35
Protective Custody	2

Miscellaneous Offenses

Suspected Drug Overdoses	16
Domestic Disturbance	152
Mental Health	108
Disturbance	185
Noise Complaints	166
Missing/Lost Persons	22
Vandalism	55
Alarms	662

Accidents

Total Accidents	475
Fatal Accidents	2

Personal Injury Accident	155

Permits & Citations

Traffic Citations & Offenses	1790
Firearms Licensing	329

Mission Statement

The Easton Police Department's primary mission is to protect the town's residents and visitors by providing the highest quality of police service possible. We incorporate integrity, compassion, and professionalism within our department. Moreover, we encourage teamwork and leadership at every level within the Police Department while simultaneously placing paramount importance on the community we serve. Our goal is to build partnerships with our citizens and community leaders to enhance the overall quality of life for everyone.

For any questions, please call our main number at (508) 230-3322 and speak with the front desk officer.

Gary F. Sullivan
Chief of Police
(508) 230-3322
Gsullivan@easton.ma.us

Keith Boone
Deputy Chief of Police
(508) 230-3322
Kboone@easton.ma.us

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT

The Animal Control Department is responsible for enforcing the State, County and local animal laws. We work closely with our local Police, the Environmental Police, the State Department of Animal Health, MSPCA, the Animal Rescue League and our local Veterinarians. We are dedicated to providing compassionate care and treatment to all animals, and to the fair and impartial enforcement of animal related law.

All dogs six months or older need a license that may be obtained at the Town Clerks Office. The license runs from January to December. The dog license is important in helping to identify the owner of a dog. All cats should wear some form of identification. Domestic pets wearing identification are able to be promptly returned to their owners. Due to COVID-19, The Annual Rabies Clinic was cancelled. We hope to resume yearly clinics in 2022. This year 7 animals were sent to the State lab for Rabies testing, 2 squirrels, 1 fox, and 3 large brown bats. All animals tested came back negative for Rabies. The Animal Control Office received approx. 900 calls. General concerns and information make up the majority of calls. Thanks to the help of Cat Canton Rescue and JM Pet Resort we were able to get 33 Cats/Kittens trapped vaccinated an adopted into homes. 12 dogs and 1 cat were claimed by their owners. All dogs and cats not claimed after a ten-day holding period are evaluated and placed in new homes. We would like to thank the Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Mass for caring for our stray animals. Their compassionate care of all animals is greatly appreciated. All calls concerning wildlife are answered or referred to the State Department of wildlife. In the spring many calls are received concerning possibly abandoned wildlife babies, in most cases the babies are fine, their mother is close by. Multiple calls reporting coyotes on their property- all were advised, we have to learn to coexist with them. Wildlife should be observed but left on their own. Please contact Animal Control if any wildlife appears to be sick or injured.

We continue to pursue owners of unlicensed dogs, unleashed dogs, dog bites, and nuisance complaints we help to protect our residents from intimidation and injury from animals. We help to protect the animals from health hazards, abuse, neglect and inhumane treatment according to the laws. It is important for dog owners in Easton to pick up after their dogs.

The Animal Control Department can be reached by calling 508-230-3353 or 508-230-3322.

I would like to thank the following for their cooperation and support throughout the year; The Police Chief and his department, the Dispatchers, The Fire Chief and his department, Public Works Director and his men, Town Clerk's Office, Town Administrator's Office, the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Health. A special Thanks to the Executive Assistant and the Administrative Assistant of the Easton Police. Thank you to the residents of Easton for being great pet owners it is a pleasure to work for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Holbrook
Animal Control Officer
jholbrook@easton.ma.us | (508) 230-3353

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The Animal Inspector is the officer in the field for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Division of Regulatory and Biosecurity Services, the State Department of Public Health, the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Environmental Police and our local Board of Health.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 a Rabies Clinic was unable to be held. We hope that for 2022 we are able to resume yearly Rabies Clinics.

17 Barns were inspected totaling in 31 Horses, 28 Goats, 47 Sheep, 238 Chickens, 14 Rabbits, 12 waterfowl and 34 Pigeons.

Calls concerning wildlife sightings have increased with more seen in backyards and roadways. It's very important to not leave pet food outside or in open garages. Make sure rubbish containers are covered. Wildlife such as fox, raccoon, coyotes are opportunistic eaters and may be seen during the day if there is easy access to food, such as garbage barrels left outside. We have had many calls regarding coyotes, at this point we are learning to coexist with them. Problem wildlife cannot be relocated, moving wildlife from one area to another could spread disease, and is against State and Federal Law. The Town of Easton requires all dog owners to pick up after their dogs. We had 27 reports of animal bites received in our office, 2 animals were placed under quarantine.

We check on the handling of domestic pets and domestic livestock according to State laws. We investigate all animal bites and encounters with wildlife. We educate the public on issues of animal diseases. We work closely with the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, Environmental Police and our local veterinarians. We can be reaching by calling 508-230-3353 or 508-230-3322 or the Board of Health at 508-230-0621. It is a pleasure to work in the Town of Easton. We would like to remind pet owners to pick up after their dogs, pet waste should be picked up on public walkways and Conservation land. We want to thank the Board of Health, Town Clerk's Office, Department of Public Works, Police and Fire Department; your help throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Holbrook, Easton Animal Inspector

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Select Board:

I hereby submit to you the annual report of the Office of the Inspector of Buildings and Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Single Family Dwellings (attached, unattached)	61
Multi-Family Dwellings (units)	44
Additions – Residential	34
Alterations – Residential	454
New Non-Residential	23
Additions Non-Residential	2
Alterations Non-Residential	81
Demolished Buildings	6
Signs	46
Swimming Pools	37
Roofing	189
Siding	31
Replacement Windows/Doors	127
Temporary Tents	21
Wood Stoves	8
Trench Permits	47
Foundations	39
Certificate of Inspections	109
Certificate of Occupancy	56

TOTALS

Total Residential Building Fees Collected:	284,779.00
Total No. of Residential Permits Issued:	994
Total Commercial Building Fees Collected:	176,816.00
Total No. of Commercial Building Permits Issued:	144
Total Wiring Fees Collected:	139,857.86
Total No. of Wiring Permits Issued:	885
Total Gas Fees Collected:	38,070.00
Total No. of Gas Permits Issued:	500
Total Plumbing Fees Collected:	48,895.00
Total No. of Plumbing Permits Issued:	523
Total Mechanical /Sheet Metal Fees Collected:	33,188.00
Total No. of Mechanical/Sheet Metal Permits Issued:	145

Total Misc. Fees Collected: (Trench, Wood Stoves, Cert. of Inspections, Signs)	7,882.00
Total No. of Misc. Permits Issued:	122

Total Cost of Construction:	152,996,175.78
Total Fees Collected:	736,089.86
Total No. of Daily Inspections:	4,120

Kevin S. Greiner	Inspector of Buildings, Zoning Enforcement	kgreiner@easton.ma.us
Paul DeBaggis	Local Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer	pdebaggis@easton.ma.us
Frank Caridi	Local Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer	fcaridi@easton.ma.us
David Wilson	Electrical Inspector	dwilson@easton.ma.us
Nicole Falcon	Administrative Assistant	nfalcon@easton.ma.us
Kevin Nelson	Alternate Plumbing and Gas Inspector	
Arthur Pedini, Jr.	Alternate Electrical Inspector	

OFFICE HOURS

Monday:	8:30 am – 7:30 pm
Tuesday:	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday:	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday:	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Friday:	8:30 am – 12:30 pm

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide highest level of service to protect and support residents and those doing business in Easton through effective enforcement of State Building Codes and Town By-Laws.
- Perform plan reviews and issue permits for building, plumbing, gas, electrical, roofing, siding, replacement windows, pools, signs, wood stoves, HVAC systems, fire protection systems, trenches and demolition work.
- Provide prompt, fair and accurate inspections related to each permit.
- Issue certificates of occupancy upon completion of a project.
- Inspect and certify buildings, businesses and occupancies related to annual licensing and code requirements.
- Investigate complaints and zoning violations.
- Determine zoning compliance.

There were 944 residential building permits and 144 commercial building permits issued in 2021. In 2021, the total estimated cost of residential construction was $44,117,015.05, and the total estimated cost of non-residential construction was $88,703,919.54. The estimated total cost of construction in 2021 was $152,966,175.78. The Inspectional Services Department collected fees in the amount of $736,089.86.

In 2021, the Inspector of Buildings issued 109 Certificates of Inspection and 56 Certificates of Use and Occupancy. The Inspectional Services Staff performed 4,120 daily inspections.

The Department has a continually growing online database of permits and inspection records, providing the public with easy viewing of permits, pending applications, and the ability to see the progress of ongoing projects.

I would like to thank a dedicated and talented staff and all Town Departments for their assistance and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin S. Greiner, CBO
Inspector of Buildings
Zoning Enforcement Officer

Telephone: (508) 230-0581
Fax: (508) 230-0629

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview

The Department of Planning & Economic Development (the Department) is charged with serving all Easton residents by ensuring growth and development occurs in a way that preserves Easton's historic and environmental resources, creates housing options for Easton residents at all income levels, enhances agricultural and recreational opportunities, provides safe and efficient transportation options, and promotes economic vitality. In that role, staff is responsible for working with various boards to develop strategic and working plans to achieve specific defined goals.

The Department leads the long-range planning efforts of the Town and is responsible for processing permits reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Board, Historical Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Conservation Commission. The Department provides staff support to the Planning & Zoning Board, Conservation Commission, Affordable Housing Trust, Community Preservation Committee, Historical Commission, Agricultural Commission, Economic Development Council, Zoning Board of Appeals and other town boards and committees as needed.

Department Projects & Activities

The closure of Town Offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was lifted in March with staff returning full time to the office, while remote meetings continued. While some technical difficulties resulted in last minute cancellations of two or three meetings, more than seventy (70) meetings proceeded smoothly. In a related note, the Department appreciates the approval of capital funds at November Town Meeting that includes funds to upgrade the online permitting system that was essential to the Town's ability to continue to process permits during the Town Offices' COVID-19 closure.

In July Easton's Emergency Rental Assistance grant program ended. The $250,000 temporary program assisted 84 people living in 35 income-qualified rental households with pandemic-related income loss, helping them remain housed during a very difficult time.

The Department worked on efforts to ensure the Town continues to meet its Chapter 40B affordable housing obligation. Keeping Easton compliant with Chapter 40B by ensuring creation of affordable housing units keeps pace with new market rate units continues to be a departmental priority. Efforts included providing technical comments on the Union Street/Blackledge 40B project and other smaller projects, and understanding and communicating the implications of Easton's increase in year-round housing units following the 2020 Census.

The Department reviewed, gained understanding of and helped develop a plan for responding to the MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning District requirement that was signed into law last January as part of the Economic Development Bond Bill.

Staff assisted the Planning & Zoning Board in preparing articles for Annual Town Meeting for changes to the Zoning Bylaw intending to support private investment in two economic growth districts: dimensional and density standards associated with the recently created Furnace Village District; and modification of the ratio of required commercial space to residential space within the Queset Commercial District, in response to shifting retail market trends. The zoning amendments align with planned infrastructure improvements and recently installed wastewater collection systems.

Staff provided support to the Economic Development Council and a group of Easton business owners as they rolled out Easton Outside, a marketing campaign promoting patronage of Easton businesses safely operating (e.g. outside dining, curbside services, online entertainment nights) during the pandemic lockdown. Components of the campaign included banners, yard signs and videos of people "Easton Outside"ing at various Easton establishments.

Easton benefitted from two COVID-19 related economic recovery grants that were supported through the department. The Long-Range Rapid Recovery Program provided technical assistance for developing an action plan to help businesses recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 shutdown and to build economic resiliency to future economic downturns. The Regional Pilot Project, coordinated through the Old Colony Planning Council, provided funding for additional marketing materials, including a smartphone app - Discover Easton - that connects customers with Easton businesses.

Grant Submittal, Awards and Administration

Staff continually submit applications for grant opportunities. Listed below are grant funds applied for, awarded to, and being administered by the Department in 2021.

Easton continues to benefit from state grant funding for infrastructure improvement projects that are intended to promote economic growth in the community. Work continued on the Main Street streetscape improvement project this past summer. The work included expanding a section of sidewalk to accommodate outdoor dining and seating, creation of new parking spaces, crosswalk repair and installation, and installation of speed tables to calm traffic moving through the downtown. This work was funded by a previously awarded MassWorks grant.

In June, the Department received a $225,000 Housing Choice Capital Grant for preliminary design work for the planned Foundry Street pedestrian, bicycle and traffic improvements.

An application for $400,000 to construct sidewalks along Lincoln Street, from Aspen Hollow Drive to Bay Road, was submitted through the Complete Streets Program in September 2021. Notice of the award was made in December. The project is expected to commence spring/summer 2022.

Easton received notice that FEMA will be participating with several other communities in a Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, funded by FEMA.

A MA Division of Conservation and Recreation Forestry Grant of $14,651 was awarded for the creation of a Forest Stewardship Plan for Wheaton Farm. The Forest Stewardship Plan was prepared by Phil Benjamin of Benjamin Forestry Services of Easton and included public input.

A Mass Trails grant of $6,000 was awarded to Eagle Scout Candidate Owen Eldridge for creation of 3 miles of new trail and nearly 200 linear feet of boardwalk over the wetlands within the Poquanticut Brook Management Area accessed through Keach Field on Chestnut Street. Owen completed this work as part of his Eagle Scout project. Special thanks to Associate Conservation Commission member Christopher Patrick for his contributions to this project.

The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) Action Grant of $174,120 was awarded in January 2020 and the remaining funds of $140,695 were extended through 2022 for restoration of approximately 23,000 sf of the 100-year floodplain area adjacent to Mulberry Meadow Brook at Sam Wright Field, 445 Bay Road. This is a joint project coordinated with the Southern New England Program (SNEP), which is providing technical assistance for stream flow monitoring and invasive plant monitoring projects. Assistance has been received from college students through Eric LaFlore, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences and Studies Program at Stonehill College, and local volunteers (Mike Spadea, Ashley Whewell, Jim Sweeney, Carol Lundeen, Ed Hands, Matt Soeldner). Thank you to all who participated in the invasive plant monitoring training and for volunteering to conduct the annual monitoring. Additional thank you goes to The Nature Conservancy for their donation of $33,000 to this project. The removal of fill was advertised for bid in October of 2021; however, all bids were overbudget. The revised scope of work was put out for bid again in December of 2021 with bids due in January 2022.

Support for Boards and Committees

Affordable Housing Trust – Staff provided project and program management to help increase affordable housing options in Easton. Department staff continued work on the following initiatives:

- Brockton Area Multi-Services Inc. (BAMSI) began construction of an 8-bedroom facility on Foundry Street for individuals with acquired brain injuries. With support from the November 2016 Special Town Meeting, the Trust worked for several years to create affordable housing for intellectually disabled adults at this formerly Town-owned property, which was transferred to BAMSI in 2020. The much-needed facility is on a limited upland area, with most of the 15-acre site being permanently protected as public conservation land. In addition to preliminary site engineering and surveying, the Trust provided $350,000 to support the expensive permitting, site work, and construction costs.
- Easton was one of the first suburban towns to launch a rental assistance program to aid families struggling to meet their rent obligations as a result of household financial impacts related to the COVID-19 lockdown. The temporary grant program drew to a close in July. With a generous $250,000 appropriation at the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting, the Trust worked with a non-profit group to support income-qualified rental households experiencing pandemic-related income loss. The program assisted 84 people living in 35 households, including 37 children and 10 households with senior citizens.
- In June South Shore Habitat for Humanity together with their partner family dedicated an affordable home on Electric Avenue. The Trust began the lengthy tax-title process to acquire the parcel in 2015, carried out site engineering work to confirm developability, transferred the small parcel and an adjoining parcel already owned by the Town to Habitat in 2019, and provided a $30,000 grant to support site work and construction costs.
- In November the Trust contracted for $30,000 with Old Colony Planning Council to help update Easton's State-mandated Housing Production Plan.

The State requires towns to update their Housing Production Plans every 5 years to stay compliant with Chapter 40B. Easton's Plan will help guide the Town's planning for diverse housing types that meet the needs of Easton residents of all income levels and help the Trust prioritize its projects and programs over the next few years.

Agricultural Commission - Staff supported the main project at the Wheaton Farm Community Gardens and assisted the Commission in resetting priorities for the upcoming year.

- In June 2021, the Agricultural Commission began creating a Farmer's Survey to create an Easton Farmer's Directory. The purpose of the survey is to provide information to potential customers and is a way for the Agricultural Commission to support local farmers.
- In December of 2021, the Agricultural Commission welcomed a guest speaker from the Marion Institute to discuss the 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment, which is available here: https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/food-system-assessment .

Board of Appeals – Staff provided administrative and technical support for eight (8) Special Permits and six (6) Variances reviewed and approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Community Preservation Committee – Department Staff continued its work administering CPA applications and overseeing grant-funded activities. Applications for CPA funding that were submitted and approved in 2021 include:

- Affordable Housing Trust programs
- Olive Ames High School playing field fencing and perimeter path construction

In September, the CPC received a Letter of Interest for CPA funds to help fund restoration and preservation of Oakes Ames Memorial Hall. Working with the applicants, it was determined that the CPA application request for 2022 funding would be to develop full construction documents and cost estimates to support a future request for funding the restoration and preservation work. Organizations interested in seeking CPA funding for eligible projects should submit a Letter of Interest to the Planning Department to initiate the application process, which will include determining project eligibility, assistance in preparing a formal application, and understanding timing for consideration by the Community Preservation Committee and advancement to Town Meeting.

Conservation Commission – Staff reviewed one hundred and forty-four (144) applications received in 2021. Another nine hundred (900) permits for other town departments (Board of Health, Building Department and Planning/Zoning) were reviewed for wetlands jurisdiction and stormwater concerns. Technical reports supporting findings and recommendations for all wetland applications were provided to the Commission to aid them in their deliberations. No appeals were filed. A combined decision for Notice of Intent applications was implemented in the Fall to reduce paper and aid in compliance.

The lease at Tufts Farm at 108 Canton Street was set to expire in October 2020 after 10 years. Staff worked closely with the Commission and town counsel to execute a short-term lease with the current tenant to provide the necessary time and rental security until a longer-term lease is publicly noticed and executed. The new Request for Proposals was advertised in the Spring of 2021.

Staff worked closely with the Conservation Commission to update the Wetland Regulations and created a series of documents outlining the permit filing requirements to facilitate the submittal of a more complete permit application, faster staff review time and expedited permit issuance. The Conservation Commission also revised the local Wetland Regulations to add a new line item in the fee structure for septic system repair and replacement. The fees were reduced from $525 to $150 for a septic system review.

Staff assisted in finalizing three (3) gifts of land to permanently protect nearly 38 acres 2021. Three (3) additional conservation restrictions were required and will be completed in 2022.

Staff provided administrative assistance for two Eagle Scouts projects. Eagle Scout candidate Owen Eldridge completed his project to design and construct a new trail network at Poquanticut Conservation Management Area, including a trail head at Keach Park. Eagle Scout Candidate Jacob Nipoti created a pollinator garden at the old parking lot at the Wheaton Farm Management Area. The pollinator garden is designed to provide food, cover and shelter to our native pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths and caterpillars. Jacob has created an information sign and bench. Thanks to Associate Conservation Commission member Jonathan Chase for his contributions to this project.

Economic Development Council – The Council continued to support the Easton Outside campaign. Local business owners, members of the Economic Development Council and staff participated in hanging Easton Outside banners and lawn signs, and orchestrating recordings of how residents and business owners experienced “Easton Outside”. Easton Outside has since morphed into Discover Easton funded in part through a Regional Pilot Program Grant administered through the Old Colony Planning Council.

Staff assisted the Economic Development Council in preparing documents to submit to the Select Board requesting they adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. This program is administered through MassDevelopment and provides loans to commercial business owners to encourage significant investment in energy efficiency improvements. Staff also assisted the Economic Development Council in communicating grant and funding opportunities to Easton businesses.

Historical Commission – Supporting the Easton Historical Commission, Staff processed 2 applications through the Town’s demolition review bylaw. Adopted at Annual Town Meeting in 2004, the demolition review bylaw provides an opportunity for property owners and the Commission to explore alternatives to demolishing historically significant buildings or adversely impacting the character of historic neighborhoods.

Staff also assisted the Commission in processing 2 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for projects within the expanded Ames Local Historic District in North Easton. Adopted at Annual Town Meeting in 2010 and expanded at Annual Town Meeting in 2013, the District ensures redevelopment in this historically significant area is appropriate and sensitive to its unique historic nature. The Town added the Hayward Pool Local Historic District in South Easton at the 2020 Special Town Meeting.

Planning and Zoning Board – Staff assisted the Board in advancing zoning amendments to Town Meeting including one that changed the required ratio of commercial to residential use for mixed-use development within the Queset Commercial District C. The other was for the dimensional and density standards for development in the recently adopted Furnace Village District.

Staff continues to work with the Board and applicant on a Special Permit application for redevelopment of the old Belcher Foundry site on Foundry Street. The project, which is seeking permitting under the Compact Neighborhood Overlay District, will result in 44-units of moderately sized single-family homes, permanently protected open space, and access to abutting Conservation Land.

Staff processed and reviewed thirty-six (36) applications including subdivision approvals, special permits, site plan review, and plan endorsements submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Training
Planning Department staff participated in the following professional development opportunities in 2021:

- SNEAPA Annual Conference
- National Planners Conference
- Citizen Planners Training Workshops
- Planetizen Historic Preservation Training
- Housing Planners/Coordinators Network meetings
- Next-Gen Watershed Management Practices Municipal Engagement Working Group
- Municipal Procurements
- Open Meeting Law
- Emergency Preparedness
- Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP), Vice-President, monthly brown bag learning lunches and annual meeting

Andrea Langhauser, Assistant Planning Director/Environmental Planner, retired in June, 2021. We thank Andrea for five years of dedicated service to the town. Jennifer Carlino, former Conservation Director for the Town of Norton, joined our ranks as Land Use/Environmental Planner in July.

For general inquiries, please call 508-230-0630, or visit our website at www.easton.ma.us/departments/planning_and_community_development/index.php

Respectfully submitted by,
Stephanie Danielson, Director of Planning & Economic Development

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

The Planning and Zoning Board administers, within the Town of Easton, Massachusetts General Laws Chapters 40A (The Zoning Act), Chapter 40 Section 15C (The Scenic Roads Act) and Chapter 41 (the Subdivision Control Law) of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. To that point we oversee the subdivision of land, create and review amendments to the Eaton Zoning Bylaws, updates to the Master Plan and review applications for certain types of Special Permits.

In addition to administration, the Board seeks to manage the growth of the community and to promote development which integrates community economic goals, environmental protection and preserving Easton's rural character through promoting development which preserves large tracts of open space and furthers the welfare of people and the community by creating convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient and attractive environments.

In 2021 the Planning & Zoning Board held twenty-four (26) meetings, opened ten (10) public hearings and received thirty-six (36) applications. These include:

- Eleven (11) Approval Not Required (Form A)
- Six (6) Site Plan Reviews
- Three (3) Modification of Existing Site Plan
- Four (4) Internally Illuminated Sign Applications
- Two (2) Special Permit – Duplex
- One (1) Special Permit – Estate Lot
- One (1) Special Permit – Common Driveway
- One (1) Special Permit- Mixed Use
- Three (3) Special Permit- Other
- Two (2) Definitive Subdivision
- One (1) Modification of Existing Subdivision
- One (1) Preliminary Plan

The Board also provided comment to the Zoning Board of Appeals for sixteen (16) applications.

In keeping with the goals of the Envision Easton Master Plan, the Board continued working on amending the Town's zoning bylaws to create the Dimensional and Density Regulations for the Furnace Village Overlay District and to revise town's Zoning Map. The Board also proposed a zoning amendment dealing with accessory structures.

In an effort to promote a more comprehensive planning process for Easton, the Board continued working on Design Guidelines for certain districts in town. Joint meetings with other town boards, when appropriate, continued to take place in 2021 and several on site visits with the board and applicants took place in an effort to unify a comprehensive planning strategy throughout town boards.

Further, we express our gratitude to Connor Reed, Town Administrator, the Select Board, and to all other Boards and Commissions for their involvement in planning

Easton’s present and future. 2021 certainly provided a slew of challenges and the Planning and Zoning Board take pride in participating in the Town’s efforts to continue to provide excellent services to it’s citizens during the on-going pandemic.

Respectfully Submitted

Gregory Strange, Chair
Peter Deschenes, Clerk
Deborah Balcarek, Member
Chris Anderson, Member
Robert Stetson, Member
Amos Keddem, Alternate Member

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Economic Development Council is a seven-member board appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The membership consists of (2) Board of Selectmen members, the Director of Planning and Economic Development and (4) private sector appointees preferably, but not necessarily, from financial, retail, manufacturing, commercial, and/or industrial sectors.

The Council is charged to promote the sustainable economic development of the Town of Easton; to collaboratively seek local and regional opportunities for economic growth in order to both generate employment opportunities and tax revenue; to recognize neighborhood and community concerns during the development of economic policy; to leverage existing infrastructure and facilities to the fullest extent possible while addressing weaknesses through collaboration with the public, businesses, and other governments.

Some highlights of work performed by the Council includes:

- Promoted "Manufacturing Day" and "Small Business Day" campaigns via social media.
- Supported Easton Outside, a marketing campaign promoting patronage of Easton businesses safely operating (e.g. outside dining, curbside services, online entertainment nights) during the pandemic lockdown.
- Actively promoted and supported Discover Easton, a smartphone app linking customers to businesses in Easton.
- Transitioned Easton Outside into Discover Easton
- Requested the Select Board adopt the Select Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program that provides loans to commercial business owners to incentivize significant investment in energy efficiency improvements.
- Communicated to Easton businesses via email and social media information about small business grants and funding opportunities as they became available.
- Continued to strengthen relationship with Easton Chamber of Commerce and support their efforts as well as their members
- Continued development of our website thinkeaston.com and bring it up to date to better serve the community
- Efforts and plans focus on locating small businesses within the sewer districts
- Updating Think Easton website and 'How to do business in Easton' guide.

The town welcomes new businesses to Easton including:

Elliott Physical Therapy
Starbucks
Dream Machines Laundry

Easton is a great place to do business with a low commercial tax rate, close proximity to Route 24 and Interstate- 495 and a skilled and eager workforce supported by

Stonehill College, Massasoit Community College, Bridgewater State University and Southeastern Regional Technical School.

For more information about Easton and the Economic Development Council, please visit www.thinkeaston.com or www.easton.ma.us.

The Economic Development Council appreciates the support of the Select Board and the Planning Department and the Town Administrator's office. We especially thank the local businesses that recognize that Easton is a great place to start or grow their business.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Marc Lamb, Select Board Representative/Chair
Dan Smith, Vice-chair
Dottie Fulginiti, Select Board Representative
Jon Holbrook
Greg Strange – Planning and Zoning Representative
Bruce Boyer
Matt Wittman
Chris Lopes, Alternate
Jonathan Spencer, Alternate
Stephanie Danielson, Director of Planning & Economic Development, Ex Officio

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
THE EASTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Easton Conservation Commission administers the State Wetlands Protection Act (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 131, S. 40 and Regulations under 310 CMR 10.00) and the local Wetlands Protection By-Law (Easton Town Code Chapter 227 and Regulations under Chapter 503). The Commission owns and has care, custody and control of nearly four thousand (4,000) acres of protected land held for conservation purposes. The Conservation Commission typically meets twice a month on Monday nights and is comprised of five (5) members and two (2) associate members. The Conservation Commission is comprised of residents who volunteer their time, expertise and concern for our natural resources. Members serve for three-year terms and are appointed by the Select Board. The Conservation Commission continues to meet remotely via a Zoom platform.

Commission members John Thomas and Charles Malo resigned in 2021. We thank John and Charles for their dedication and participation in the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission would also like to thank Andrea Langhauser, Assistant Director of Planning, for her guidance and support and wish her a happy retirement. The Conservation Commission welcomed Jennifer Carlino, as the new Land Use and Environmental Planner. Ms. Carlino held a previous position with the Town of Norton for 22 years and is the Vice-President of the Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP), previous President of Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) and previous Secretary for the Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists (AMWS).

Under the State law and local Wetland Bylaw, any activity proposed within a wetland resource area, within 100 feet of a resource area (known as the Buffer Zone) or within 200 feet of a river (known as the Riverfront Area) requires a permit from the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission's mission is to conduct a pre-construction review of a proposed project to ensure that the project complies with state and local wetland regulations.

Permit review stats: Staff reviewed for the Conservation Commission one hundred and forty-four (144) applications were processed in 2021, which generated and $51,190.50 in application fees. Over 900 applications for other town departments (Board of Health, Building Department and Planning/Zoning) were reviewed for wetlands jurisdiction and stormwater concerns.

19 Determinations of Applicability (DET) and under Local Bylaw
51 Orders of Condition (OOC) and under Local Bylaw
1 Permit for Work (Bylaw only)
3 Amended Orders of Condition (AOOC)
2 Denial Orders of Condition (OOC)
8 Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD) and under Local Bylaw

1 Amended Order of Resource Area Delineation (AORAD) and under Local Bylaw
46 Certificates of Compliance (COC) and under Local Bylaw
4 Partial Certificates of Compliance (PCOC) and under Local Bylaw
2 Emergency Certificates (EC)
7 Enforcement Orders (EO)
0 Request for Superseding Orders of Condition to Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
0 Appeals of Wetland Bylaw decision

In 2021, the Conservation Commission created a series of documents outlining the permit filing requirements to facilitate the submittal of a more complete permit application, faster staff review time and expedited permit issuance. The Conservation Commission also revised the local Wetland Regulations to add a new line item in the fee structure for septic system repair and replacement. The fees were reduced from $525.00 to $150.00 for a septic system review.

Open Space Activities

Land Preservation

The Conservation Commission has received two (2) gifts of land within Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

- The first parcel contains 6.25 acres at 122 R Highland St (map 13R, parcel 11B) to protect quality and quantity of drinking water within the Canoe River ACEC, wetland, floodplain, and a potential vernal pool.
- The second parcel contains 18.70 acres at 81 Prospect St (map 16R, parcel 1) to protect rare species habitat within the Black Brook Management Area, connecting to MA Fish and Game land within the Hockomock Swamp ACEC.
- The Conservation Commission is in process of acquiring 13.4 acres at 300 Foundry St (map 16R, parcel 97) that will permanently protect rare species habitat listed as Threatened in Bristol County, wetland and a potential vernal pool within the Hockomock Swamp ACEC.
- Conservation Restrictions were required as conditions of development under the Wetland Bylaw. These will be located on the following properties:
    - 38 Randall St (E#1660)
    - 91 Summer St (E#1659)
    - 226 Massapoag Ave (E#1623)

Grants

- A **Mass Trails grant** of $6,000.00 was awarded to **Eagle Scout Candidate Owen Eldridge** for creation of 3 miles of new trail and nearly 200 linear feet of boardwalk over the wetlands within the Poquanticut Brook Management Area accessed through Keach Field on Chestnut Street. Owen completed this work as part of his Eagle Scout project. Special thanks to Associate Conservation Commission member, Christopher Patrick, for his contributions to this project.
- The **Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) Action Grant** of $174,120.00 was awarded in January 2020 and the remaining funds of $140,695.00 were extended through 2022 for restoration of approximately 23,000 sf of the 100-year

floodplain area adjacent to Mulberry Meadow Brook at Sam Wright Field, 445 Bay Rd. This is a joint project coordinated with the Southern New England Program (SNEP), who is providing technical assistance for stream flow monitoring and invasive plant monitoring projects. Assistance has been received with college students through Eric LaFlore, Assistant Professor of Environmental Sciences and Studies Program at Stonehill College, and local volunteers (Mike Spadea, Ashley Whewell, Carol Lundeen, Ed Hands, Matt Soeldner). Thank you to all who participated in the invasive plant monitoring training and for volunteering to conduct the annual monitoring. Additional thank you goes to The Nature Conservancy for their donation of $33,000.00 to this project. The removal of fill was advertised for bid in October of 2021; however, all bids were overbudget. The revised scope of work was put out for bid again in December of 2021 with bids due in January 2022.
- A **MA Division of Conservation and Recreation, Forestry Grant** of $14,651 was awarded for the creation of a Forest Stewardship Plan for Wheaton Farm. The Forest Stewardship Plan was prepared by Phil Benjamin of Benjamin Forestry Services of Easton and included public input.

Land Management Projects

- **Eagle Scout Candidate, Jacob Nipoti**, has created a pollinator garden at the old parking lot at the Wheaton Farm Management Area. The pollinator garden is designed to provide food, cover and shelter to our native pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths and caterpillars. Jacob has created an information sign and bench. Thanks to Associate Conservation Commission member Jonathan Chase for his contributions to this project.
- The new 5-year lease at **Tufts Farm (108 Canton St)** was advertised in 2021. A public bid process received two proposals. The lease is to provide a local farmer with a residence and land to perform farming activities. Additionally, components of the Conway School of Landscape Design's Master Plan would be added over the terms of the lease.

The Conservation Commission looks forward to working with residents on their projects!

Respectfully submitted,

Rory Kallfelz, Chair
Michael Spadea, Vice Chair
Carol Lundeen, Member
Benjamin Carroll, Member

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Town of Easton's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) comprise four citizens "at large" and five members selected (one each) from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, local Housing Authority, Historical Commission and the Recreation Commission.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was signed into law in September of 2000 to provide a dedicated funding stream for the preservation of open space, historic resources and community housing. CPA funding is provided through a local real estate tax surcharge and a statewide registry of deeds surcharge. The state funds are distributed to participating communities as matching funds in October of each year. The state match can be as much as 100% of the total amount raised by a community in the preceding fiscal year, depending upon how much revenue is collected by the state and how many communities are participating. Easton's CPA surcharge has two exemptions: the first $100,000 of value of each residence and an exemption for property owned by lower income persons.

Between 2002 and 2007, the Commonwealth distributed six rounds of 100% state CPA matching funds to the 33 communities, including Easton, that have participated since its inception. Since 2008, the state match decreased in part due to the economic downturn, and also due to increasing numbers of participating communities sharing the matching funds. There are now 186 communities that adopted the CPA. On November 15, 2021 the state CPA Trust Fund distributed $558,038 to Easton, with an additional $115,622 in supplemental distribution, bringing the total distribution for Easton to $673,660 or 47.5% - a higher percentage than most communities. This latest award increases Easton's total state matching funds to approximately $8.8 million.

As of December 31, 2021, Easton's CPA reserves are as follows:
$ -0 - in housing reserves,
$ 364,405 - in historic preservation reserves,
$ -0 - in open space reserves,
$ 825,362 - in the annual budgeted reserve, and
$5,750,069 - in unreserved CPA funds

Three separate reservations are required by the Community Preservation Act if funds are not appropriated for such purposes - a minimum of 10% must be appropriated, or set aside, for: historic preservation; community housing; and open space. The balance of CPA funds is not reserved for any particular CPA purpose, but must be spent on CPA-eligible projects. To be funded, a CPA project needs the favorable recommendation of the CPA Committee and, then, Town Meeting approval.

Annual Town Meeting in May 2021 funded $177,500 to the Affordable Housing Trust and $35,000 for perimeter fencing and walking paths around the new practice field at OAHS. Organizations interested in seeking CPA funding for eligible projects should submit a Letter of Interest to the Planning Department to initiate the application process. The Planning Department and the CPC will assist with the application process including but not limited to determining project eligibility, assisting in preparing a formal application and understanding timing for consideration by the CPC and advancement to Town Meeting.

The Committee meets on a monthly basis. Meetings are open to the public. The Committee reports to the Town Meeting on an annual basis and can be reached through the Easton Town Offices, 136 Elm St. Easton, MA 02356.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,
Thomas Brussard, Chairperson

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Overview

Easton's Affordable Housing Trust was created by unanimous vote at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. The Trust's 7 volunteer board members are appointed by the Select Board and are charged to promote housing choice, eliminate housing discrimination, plan for fair and affordable housing, and develop, preserve, and advocate for housing opportunities for a broad range of income levels.

Activities and Projects

In April Brockton Area Multi-Services Inc. (BAMSI) began construction of an 8-bedroom facility on Foundry Street for individuals with acquired brain injuries. With support from the November 2016 Special Town Meeting, the Trust worked for several years to create affordable housing for intellectually disabled adults at this formerly Town-owned property, which was transferred to BAMSI in 2020. The much-needed facility is on a limited upland area, with most of the 15-acre site being permanently protected as public conservation land. In addition to preliminary site engineering and surveying, the Trust provided $350,000 to support the expensive permitting, site work, and construction costs.

In June South Shore Habitat for Humanity together with their partner family dedicated an affordable home on Electric Avenue. The Trust began the lengthy tax-title process to acquire the parcel in 2015, carried out site engineering work to confirm developability, transferred the small parcel and an adjoining parcel already owned by the Town to Habitat in 2019, and provided a $30,000 grant to support site work and construction costs.

In June Easton received a $225,000 Housing Choice Community Capital Grant that the Town is using for engineering and design work for the planned sidewalk and other infrastructure improvements on Foundry Street. Easton has been designated a Housing Choice Community twice (2018 and 2020) in recognition of our success in creating housing opportunities for residents of all income levels, qualifying the Town to apply for these grants. Easton used a previous grant for engineering and design work related to the Five Corners Sewer extension.

In July Easton's Emergency Rental Assistance grant program drew to a close. With a generous $250,000 appropriation at the June 2020 Annual Town Meeting, the Trust worked with a non-profit group to administer a temporary grant program for income-qualified rental households with pandemic-related income loss. The program assisted 84 people living in 35 households, including 37 children and 10 households with residents over 55 years old. About half the participating landlords were individual / local property owners rather than larger companies.

In November the Trust contracted for $30,000 with Old Colony Planning Council to help update Easton's State-mandated Housing Production Plan. The State requires towns to update their Housing Production Plans every 5 years to stay compliant with Chapter 40B. Easton's Plan will help guide the Town's planning for diverse housing types that meet the needs of Easton residents of all income levels and help the Trust prioritize its projects and programs over the next few years.

Trust staff continued monitoring and updating the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) to ensure Easton remains in "safe harbor" relative to 40B proposals, with more than 10% of the Town's permanent housing units being SHI-eligible. Eligible units must be subject to long-term or perpetual restrictions limiting their sale or rental price and be marketed through a fair and equitable process to income-qualified buyers or renters, usually households making 80% or below the Area Median Income (AMI), which in 2021 for a family of four in Easton was $79,900. In order to address the State's general shortage of rental housing, all new rental units (including market-rate) in new developments with 25% of the total units restricted as affordable count towards a town's SHI. Keeping Easton compliant with Chapter 40B by ensuring that the creation of affordable housing units keeps pace with the creation of market rate units as the Town continues to develop remains a Trust priority.

The Trust continues to hold virtual meetings as needed, with all meetings open to the public.

The Trust receives part-time staff support from the Department of Planning & Economic Development's Community Planner, Wayne Beitler, 508-230-0645, wbeitler@easton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted: Nikki Dostoomian, Chair; Amy Rodrigues, Clerk; Jennifer Stacy, Select Board Representative; Krisanne Sheedy; Samantha Hill; Stephanie Alves; and Ernso Stiven.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

To the Select Board of the Town of Easton:

We, the members of the Board of Appeals respectfully submit the following Annual Report for the Year 2021. The responsibilities of the Board of Appeals are to hear applications filed for Special Permits, Variances and Administrative Appeals pursuant to Chapter 40A, Mass. General Laws and Comprehensive Permits pursuant to Chapter 40B, Mass. General Laws.

Nineteen (19) petitions, comprised of eleven (11) Special Permits, seven (7) Variances and one (1) Comprehensive Permit were received by the Board of Appeals during the year, which in conformity with the law, were duly advertised, and copies of notices were given to all Town Boards and mailed to all parties of interest as defined in Chapter 40A, §11, Mass. General Laws.

During the Board's reorganization in July 2021, Michael Spillane was unanimously re-elected as Chairman, Ryan Cook was re-elected as Vice Chairman and Timothy McCaul was re-elected as Clerk.

	Administrative Appeal	Comprehensive Permit	Special Permit	Variance
Petitions Granted			10	7
Petitions Denied			0	0
Petitions Withdrawn/ Dismissed			1	0
Comprehensive Permits Granted		0		
Continued to 2022		1		
To be Heard in 2022			0	1

During the year, all petitions to the Board of Appeals were submitted electronically and available for public view on the Town website.

The Board wishes to recognize and commend all personnel and Town Officials who provided assistance to the Board during the year. Specifically, the Board wishes to thank Stephanie Danielson, Planning Director, for continued support and her assistance with the pending Comprehensive Permit application.

For assistance, contact the Board of Appeals' Office at (508) 230-0591 or **BoardofAppeals@easton.ma.us**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Spillane, Chair
Ryan Cook, Vice-Chair
Timothy McCaul, Clerk
Stephen Merlin, Member
John Curran, Member

Jeremy Kay, Alternate Member
Ed Watson, Alternate Member

EASTON HOUSING AUTHORITY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Members of the Board of Commissioners are as follows:

Pamela M Widdop – CHAIR
Krisanne Sheedy – VICE CHAIR
Donald Burroughs – TREASURER
Dennis Sheedy – ASSISTANT TREASURER
Thomas Thibeault – STATE APPOINTEE

Overview:

Four of the Commissioners are elected by the Town's people and one member is appointed by the State's Governor.

The Easton Housing Authority is an agency that provides safe and sanitary housing for low- and moderate-income elderly, disabled and families. The Housing Authority operates under guidelines set out by their regulatory agencies, the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Housing Authority's offices are located at Parker Terrace and are open to the public from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Friday. It should be noted that during the COVID Pandemic the offices have been closed to the public.

You can reach us at:

(508) 238-4747, Fax: (508) 230-9694, TDD: (508) 230-9695,

Email: housingauthority@eastonhousing.com

The Easton Housing Authority consists of a five-member Board of Commissioners, an Executive Director and six staff members.

The Board of Commissioners typically meet at 5:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every month at Parker Terrace, however there are occasions when the Meeting would be held on another day. Please be sure to check the posting at Town Hall. During the COVID pandemic the board has been meeting remotely via GO TO Meetings.

Management:

On December 7, 2015 The Easton Housing Authority hired Kathleen Steiger as the new Executive Director of the Agency. Kathleen Steiger is directly in charge of personnel and general supervision of the administration of the Easton Housing Authority's business, subject to the discretion of the Board Members of the Easton Housing Authority.

The office staff consists of: Dawn Doyle, Assistant Director, Donna Rogers, Housing Coordinator and Chieko Williams Desberg, clerk/receptionist.

The Maintenance staff consists of three full-time maintenance workers, Daniel Andrews, Maintenance Supervisor, Joseph Leite and Derek House.

Elderly/handicapped Housing:

The Easton Housing Authority manages 184 units of elderly/handicapped housing located at Elise Circle & Parker Terrace.

Family Housing:

There are 10 family housing units: 7 – three-bedroom homes located at Chandler Way, a three-bedroom home located at 22 Eisenhower Drive, a four-bedroom home located at 50 Day Street and a three-bedroom home located at 28 Barrows Street.

The Authority's State Public Housing (elderly/handicapped & family housing) waiting lists are currently open and the income limits are as follows:

Number in Household	Income Limit
1	$55,950
2	$63,950
3	$71,950
4	$79,900
5	$86,300
6	$92,700
7	$99,100
8	$105,500

Applications for State-aided Public Housing can be obtained on line at: THE MASSACHUSETTS CHAMP website
http://www.publichousingapplication.ocd.ma.us

Applications are also available at the office of the Authority at 1 Parker Terrace and on our website at eastonhousingauthority.net. Residents of the Town of Easton receive a preference on the Housing Authority's Public Housing waiting lists.

Section 8 Housing:
HUD provides Federal funds to support the existing Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Easton Housing Authority presently has 101 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers under lease.
Section 8 voucher applications can be obtained on line at:
www.GoSection8.com/massCWL

Other Information:
DHCD allowed a 4% budget increase in the allowable non-utility expense level within their FY 2021 budget guidelines for the Housing Authority's. This is following an increase of 10% in FY18, 4% in FY19, 10% in FY20 and a 0% increase in FY21. Alongside the CARES act money provided to Housing Authorities in FY21, we are hopeful that this increase will help to recover form the fiscal effects of the pandemic and continue providing quality services to residents.

The Department of Housing & Community Development had approved the Easton Housing Authority's capital improvement plan.
The Robert J. Keefe Community Center at Parker Terrace continues to be the site for Old Colony Elderly Services Meals on Wheels Program. The congregate lunch program, serving hot lunches has not resumed since the pandemic.

The Easton Housing Authority works in conjunction with the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Inmate work program. With the past and present economy, the inmate work program provides a substantial savings and opportunity to accomplish projects that would not otherwise take place due to the lack of funding and staffing. Even through the pandemic the Sheriff's department has allowed us use of the inmate work crew.

The inmate work program not only provides savings to the housing authority but an opportunity for rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates back into the community. The inmates have worked on interior cleaning in common areas, painting, vacant unit rehab and landscaping.

The Housing Authority has awarded the asphalt paving and septic system repair at our Chandler Way property to Site Tek, Inc. The construction is just about finished. The award for this project was $254,690.00. We were able to achieve this construction job by using the Formula Funding awarded annually by the Department of Housing & Community Development.

Our predicted Formula Funding Awards moving forward are as follows: $274,643.00 for FY2023, $247,650.00 for FY24 and $247,650.00 for FY25 Formula Funding from the Department of Housing and Community Development. This steady annual stream of funding will allow us to continue to plan for physical improvements across our housing portfolio.

Other Grants received

Representative Claire Cronin filed an amendment in the Governor's budget for $75,000 to do improvements to common areas of the housing authority. The authority will use these funds for improvements to the Elise Circle Community Center. This project is currently underway.

Respectfully submitted: Kathleen Steiger, Executive Director

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Overview

Originally established by a Town Meeting vote in 1969, the Easton Historical Commission's 5 volunteer board members are appointed by the Select Board and are charged with the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics and architecture of buildings and places significant in the history of the Town.

Activities and Projects

The Historical Commission works to promote awareness of the history of Easton, to preserve and protect the Town's historical assets, and to participate in the planning and development of the Town in order to maintain its unique character.

Members and staff continued to support and oversee CPA-funded work at several historic sites including Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, South Easton Cemetery, and Easton's Town Hall (the former Wayside Estate).

The Commission considered 2 applications under Easton's Building Demolition Permit Review Bylaw for structures over 75 years old. Adopted at Annual Town Meeting in 2004, demolition review provides an opportunity for property owners and the Commission to explore alternatives to demolishing historically significant buildings.

The Commission considered 2 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness for projects within the expanded Ames Local Historic District in North Easton. Adopted at Annual Town Meeting in 2010 and expanded in 2013, the District ensures exterior renovations and redevelopment are in keeping with the historic neighborhood. The Town added the Hayward Pool Local Historic District in South Easton at the 2020 Special Town Meeting.

The Commission sponsored a successful article at the May 17th Annual Town Meeting to amend the Local Historic District bylaw, eliminating the newspaper advertisement requirement for public hearings to better align the Town's bylaw with the State's enabling legislation, streamline the application and approvals process, and reduce applicants' permitting expenses.

The 21st Annual Awards continued to be delayed due to the pandemic; the Commission anticipates planning for them in 2022.

The Commission continues to hold virtual meetings as needed, with all meetings open to the public.

The Commission receives part-time staff support from the Department of Planning & Economic Development's Community Planner, Wayne Beitler, 508-230-0645, wbeitler@easton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted: Tim Hurley, Chair; John J. Ventresco, Vice Chair; Greg Strange; Amy Spencer; Majid Lashkari; Mikaela Wolfe, Alternate; Robert Bishop, Alternate.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Overview

The Municipal Building Committee ("MBC") was established by Special Town Meeting on November 9, 1998 (Article 16) and amended by Special Town Meeting on November 30, 2020 to serve as a building committee for all school and general government building projects valued over $500,000. The MBC is charged with:

- Conducting inspections of all school and general government buildings not less than once every five years and maintaining a list of repairs necessary to maintain all buildings in good working order.
- Assisting the Department of Public Works ("DPW") Director with the preparation of annual and 5-year capital improvement and maintenance plans for all school and general government buildings consistent with the policies of the Select Board and School Committee.
- Meeting at least annually with the Town Administrator, Capital Planning Committee, Finance Committee, Select Board, School Planning Committee and School Committee (when in service), to review the 5-year capital improvement and maintenance plans.

The MBC consists of nine members:

- Five members appointed by the Select Board for 3-year terms with a minimum of two citizens possessing demonstrable experience in building design, construction, operation or maintenance.
- Two members appointed annually by the School Committee.
- DPW Director, ex-officio (non-voting).
- Superintendent of Schools, ex-officio (non-voting).

Renee Lapierre serves as Secretary for the MBC.

Activities and Actions

The Committee held two meetings from March through October. The Committee typically meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM as required. The following actions and items resulted:

- Three new citizen members were appointed: Joseph Fellone, Jamie Stebbins and Daniel Jick. One citizen member resigned: Lawrence Mowatt. One School Committee member resigned; Jane Martin.
- Ken Carlson served as MBC representative on the School Planning Committee for the Early Elementary School Project.
- Larry Mowatt served as the MBC representative on the Town Hall Restoration Project.
- Andrew Williams served as the MBC representative on the Public Safety Complex OPM Selection Board for the Public Safety Complex Feasibility Study as voted at the Special Town Meeting on November 8, 2021.
- Completed a tour of the Oliver Ames High School on June 29, 2021 to assess building envelope leaks in atrium and fitness center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew J Williams, P.E., Chair

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION

The Easton Recreation Department provides diverse and equitable programs that reach out to the recreational needs of the community of Easton. The department continues to offer quality programming for adults and youth in the community with the limited funding that is available. We are working with Anne Daley, the Deputy Director of Health and Community Services, Community Engagement and Programming and Nicole Falcon, a part time Administrative Assistant, as well as a seven-member Recreation Commission. The Commission meets monthly to help guide and further develop the department and its programs. The Commission also serves as a core volunteer group in support of the department.

Programs for 2021 included Tee Ball, Track and Field, Ultimate Frisbee, Cross Country Running, Field Hockey, Adult Yoga, Adult Coed Volleyball and Men's Basketball.

A new program offered in the Fall of 2021 was Field Hockey for girls grades 5/6. They practiced at the Oliver Ames fields and competed in the Commonwealth League traveling to play on the weekend.

The Town Pool opened June 30, 2021 for the Summer Season. We offered swim lessons for ages 3 and up, open swim and senior, individual and family memberships.

The CPA funding application is for construction of 6 pickleball courts at the Town's Unionville Field recreation area and associated infrastructure such as an expanded parking area, creation of an ADA path linking the parking lot with the courts, site grading for storm- water management, and other project elements, equipment, and landscaping. A 2019 CPA grant funded design plans and specifications, and in 2020 a $320,000 CPA grant was awarded for construction. Bids were received between $400,000 and more than $700,000. The project scope was slightly revised and cost estimates were updated to reflect construction price increases not anticipated in the earlier application and award. The revised total project cost is $573,650. This additional $253,650 will allow the project to go out to bid to construct all 6 originally planned courts.

We continue to update our website and are currently working on a reorganization that will make navigating the website seamless for community members of all ages. An interactive GIS-based map will soon allow visitors to easily explore our resources. Additionally, the website will provide information on current and future program offerings, as well as easy registration.

Respectfully Submitted, Tana Babbitt, Chair, Krystyna Ciaglo, Natalie Clouser, Michelle Durrance, Melissa Hartz, Steven Gaito, and Meredith Keach.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

In March of 2020 Easton was impacted by a Global Pandemic caused by the COVID 19 virus. On March 12, we closed our doors to the public and all staff began working from home. The days that followed were filled with uncertainty as we began adjusting our operations and preparing to support Easton seniors in ways we had never done before.

We began 2021 working with the doors to Frothingham hall closed except for appointments scheduled for tasks that could not be accomplished any other way. Our dedicated AARP tax preparers were able to support the community using a remote system.

In the Spring of 2021, we reopened to the public three days a week. We were able to begin the redistribution of the breads and pastries so generously donated to us by our local Markets to residents.

In July, we reopened for regular business hours and were able to begin offering fitness classes in person once again. Thanks to funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, we were able to offer back to back classes to allow for social distancing and respect of personal levels of comfort, as we step closer to normal operations. The grant from EOEA also allowed us to offer these classes at no cost to the participants.

August of 2021, we were happy to have art classes, mah jongg, Swedish weaving, and the healthy eating group return to our programming lineup. August also brought a setback as the number of COVID cases increased as a result of the Delta variant. We returned to requiring masks indoor for all visitors, but we were able to have SHINE appointments in person for Medicare open enrollment.

The monthly newsletter has continued to be distributed. The content and process for folding and addressing them was adapted. The newsletter continued to provide entertainment and encouragement as well as vital information to seniors.

With the addition of some enhanced safety precautions, we provided 1,218 rides to elderly and/or disabled residents for a total of 12,693 miles with zero safety incidents. The COA transportation program provides rides to and from medical appointments, grocery shopping/food pantry pickups, barber shops and hair salons, as well as a variety of other local destinations necessary to help sustain the dignity and independence of our seniors and disabled residents.

The Easton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee (AFAC), established by the Select Board, began its work in February 2021 to help town leadership follow an AARP-sponsored program to ensure that Easton was a place "where the social and physical environments promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages." After an extensive citizen needs assessment, a draft Age-Friendly Community Action Plan was delivered to the public for comment in November-December. Feedback from that effort was incorporated into a final Action Plan that was then set to be presented to the Select Board in January of 2022.

In collaboration with the OAHS honor students, we recognized all of our volunteers with a drive-thru celebration. The honor students put together goody bags in advance for the event. The volunteers were invited to drive through the Frothingham Hall parking lot during a designated time frame, where they received a goody bag and were cheered on by students and staff.

In May of 2021, Long time member of the Council, Marie Graca resigned. We thank her for her service. A number of new members of the community have volunteered and have been appointed to the Council on Aging, and join this dedicated group. While Boards and Committees continue to only meet by zoom, we are looking forward to being able to meet in person in 2022, as the Council did not meet in 2021.

We are grateful to the many individuals and groups who enriched the lives of our older residents through their generous gifts of time and support. Including the Easton Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, the Bristol County Sheriff's Dept., the Bristol County District Attorney's office, the Easton Police and Fire Departments in addition to so many others.

We extend our appreciation to the Select Board, the Finance Committee and the residents of Easton for their support of our services and programs.

For more information on programs and services, please contact Kristin Kennedy, Director, 15 Barrows Street, North Easton, MA 02356.Telephone: 508-230- 0690; E-mail: kkennedy@easton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted:
Jean Shearing, Vice Chair
Donna Welch
Christine Midura
Stephen Lyons
Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin
Lynn Cleveland
Matthew Soeldner

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TAXATION AID COMMITTE

Overview

On November 12, 2019, Special Town Meeting voted to adopt M.G.L. Chapter 60 § 3D establishing an elderly and disabled taxation relief fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income. On January 27, 2020, the Select Board adopted a charge for the Taxation Aid Committee to implement and administer this fund.

Membership & Contact Information

Member	Position	Term Ends
Andrew Fleischer	Chair	6/30/2022
Kometa Midred	Member	6/30/2023
Megan Ferguson	Vice Chair	6/30/2024
Michael J. McKenna	Board of Assessors	Ex-Officio
Linda Hawkes	Treasurer/Collector	Ex-Officio

For more information regarding the Taxation Aid Committee please contact Cory Ahonen, Deputy Director of Health and Community Services, at cahonen@easton.ma.us or call the Treasurer's Office at 508-230-0604.

For information on how to apply for aid and on how to donate to the fund please visit: https://www.easton.ma.us/boards_and_committees/taxation_aid_committee.php

2021 Activities & Accomplishments

2021 marked the first full year of operation for the committee and was highlighted with serveral milestones. First, the committee adopted an application for aid along with guidelines for disbursement of funds.

These guidelines are used by the committee when evaluating applicants and determining their eligibility for aid in the 2021 tax year:

- "Elderly" is here defined as a person who is at least 60 years of age on or before July 1, 2021.
- "Disabled" is defined, for the purposes of this application, as a person who is not able to work. Supporting documentation will be necessary to prove this status.
- An applicant must be the titled owner of the property or hold a life estate in the property.
- Applicants must have lived in Easton and held title to the taxed property for 1 or more years at the time of the application.
- Income shall include all income such as pensions, interest from savings accounts, IRA's, stocks or bonds, etc. Total income limits: 80% Area Median Income. Assets, which include stocks, bonds, CDs, IRAs, Annuities, and any tangible liquid asset, will be considered in determining eligibility and aid amount.
- Extraordinary circumstances (e.g., an unusual expense) will be considered in the committee's deliberations and the decision process. This will provide the committee with flexibility to address unforeseen situations on a case by case basis.

For the purposes of outlining eligibility, the committee defined low income as 80% of Area Median Income. For a household of one, the income limit under these guidelines is $55,950 annually and $63,950 for a household of two.

In 2021, the committee also began accepting donations via check and by the end of the year the committee launched the capability to accept donations online. A total of $5,300 was raised for the Taxation Aid Fund in 2021.

Resident applications for aid were due on October 29, 2021. The committee received four applications for aid in 2021. Personal information on the applications was redacted by the Treasurer's office to preserve the privacy of the applicants. On December 16th, in Executive Session, the committee voted to award aid to all four applicants. Total aid awarded in 2021 was $ 3,763.09.

Coming in 2022, the committee will establish criteria to distribute a portion of the Federal funds available to the Town of Easton from American Rescue Plan Act.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AGE-FRIENDLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Overview

In 2019, the Easton Select Board adopted a Charge to establish the Easton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee (AFAC). The town also joined The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and committed to using guidance from AARP and the World Health Organization to plan and implement age-friendly initiatives.

The town vision continues to be *"where the social and physical environments promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages."*

The AFAC is a nine-person committee composed of town staff, a Select Board member, and volunteer residents appointed by the Select Board to serve one-year terms with the possibility for reappointment.

The committee met for the first time in February 2021, and then 2-3 times per month through end of the year. The AFAC was charged with creating an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, and then helping to ensure its successful implementation along with town departmental leadership.

Activities

An assessment of community needs was a first step in the age-friendly planning process. In 2021, after formation of the Easton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, the town began working with the Committee and Old Colony Planning Council, the regional community planning agency for the Greater Brockton and Plymouth areas.

Together we reviewed 2019-2020 projects done in partnership with Boston University's (BU) MetroBridge Program, and then designed and conducted a broader survey in the summer of 2021 to update and expand feedback from the community.

Communication about the 2021 survey took some creativity due to necessary COVID - 19restrictions, especially since we wanted to broaden the distribution and results gathering. To accomplish this, town web sites, email, paper copy distribution and collection sites throughout the town, formal and informal networks, and regular mail were used. We specifically made sure to include strong distribution to Veterans, renters, and homeowners, and those without access to a computer.

The committee used AARP's Eight Domains of Livability as the framework for organizing and prioritizing age-friendly initiatives. The Eight Domains of Livability are Housing, Transportation, Communication & Information, Community & Health Services, Outdoor Spaces & Buildings, Respect & Social Inclusion, Civic Participation, and Social Participation.

Using findings from the assessment and recognizing resource limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFAC agreed to focus initially on three Domains when drafting the action plan. A vision and set of goals with corresponding strategies to reach them are identified in the Action Plan for each of the three Domains. The Domains and their visions are listed as follows.

- **Housing:** Our vision is of a town where diverse housing options are available and residents can age-in-place, remaining independent in their homes for as long as possible.
- **Transportation:** Our vision is of a town where enough safe, affordable, and accessible transportation options exist within the community that older residents may go where they need and want to go in Easton or surrounding areas.
- **Communications & Information**: Our vision is of a town where age-friendly information is communicated regularly in an accessible and user-friendly way, effectively reaching residents of all ages and abilities.

After the AFAC review of the draft Easton Age-Friendly Action Plan, it was shared with the Easton community and with AARP for review and comment during November and December of 2021. Comments received were reviewed and discussed by the Committee. The final Age-Friendly Easton Action Plan was adopted by the Easton Select Board on January 24, 2022.

In addition to the work to finalize the Action Plan, we were made aware of H.205, an act introduced by Representative Carol Doherty and others to establish a livable home modification grant program. Ms. Doherty represents Easton Precincts 5, 6, and half of 4.

Two of the Age-Friendly Action Plan goals included under the Housing Domain, are about being able to age comfortably and safely in our town. We felt those goals would be well-supported by the passing of H.205, and so we submitted a letter of support to the Joint Commission on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities (JCCFFPD) at the State House in Boston. We look forward to being able to add H.205 to the tools available to help our residents make important decisions around all phases of life.

Next Steps

The Age-Friendly Advisory Committee will continue to meet to monitor age-friendly initiatives in the community, review Action Plan outcomes, develop plans for addressing additional Domains, and keep the community updated on progress.

The AFAC would like to thank all Easton residents who participated in the process that culminated with the Action Plan, and Kristin Kennedy, Easton's Director of Health and Community Services, for initiating this important work.

Thanks also to our partners from Old Colony Planning Council:

- Joanne Zygmunt (lead author), Senior Economic Development and Environmental Planner
- Dottie Fulginiti, Economic Recovery Planner
- Charles Kilmer, Assistant Director and Transportation Program Manager
- David Klein, Administrator, Area Agency on Aging
- Laurie Muncy, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development

For more information about Age-Friendly Easton, please visit the Town of Easton's website, and contact your Select Board Representative or town staff at the Council on Aging.

To receive the Easton Age-Friendly Community Action Plan in an alternative format, please call **Anne Daley**, Deputy Director of Health and Community Services for the Town of Easton, at (508) 230-0690 or email adaley@easton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted by the Easton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee

Catherine Adler, Chair

Susan Malkin Kelly, Vice-Chair

Ramakrishna Penumarthy, Secretary

Kim Bales

Michael Blanchard, Assistant Town Administrator

Anne Daley, Deputy Director of Health and Community Services

Dottie Fulginiti, Select Board Representative

Jeanne Parrinello

Earnest Smith

REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

To the Honorable members of the Select Board and the residents of the Town of Easton.

As your representative to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2021.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the seventeen-member district. OCPC is designated as; an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the coordination of regional economic development activities, and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three-community service area. OCPC is the designated staff of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (OCMPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning, grant application preparation and current local and regional socioeconomic information.

Our Mission

At Old Colony Planning Council, we assist cities and towns in planning for present and future needs, utilizing our local knowledge, technical expertise, and regional collaboration.

Our Vision

Our vision is that communities in the Old Colony region are:

- ***Resilient***, using social, economic, and environmental resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations brought about by natural disasters or economic downturns.
- ***Sustainable***, the needs of all people and the natural environment are met now without compromising the ability to meet those needs in the future.
- ***Equitable,*** social, economic, and environmental opportunities exist for all.
- ***Connected***, everyone has accessible, affordable, and sustainable mobility choices.
- ***Responsive***, planning efforts are inclusive and reflect the diverse needs of all.
- ***Collaborative***, cooperating regionally to tackle common challenges.

Our Organizational Values

PLANNING FOR ALL

We strive to be fair, impartial, inclusive, and transparent in all we do. Celebrating diversity, we prioritize engaging those who may be underrepresented in planning efforts. We aim for authentic, empowered public participation.

THINKING AHEAD

We look to the future as we help address challenges and seize opportunities across the region. Whether it is a time-tested solution or innovative new approach, communities rely on our technical expertise and local knowledge to help develop solutions.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES

We highly value our partnership with the communities in our region. We are responsive to their needs and seek to facilitate regional cooperation and collaboration on shared issues within our region and with our neighboring regions.

SERVING WITH DEDICATION

We are passionate about the work we do in service to our communities, and we strive for excellence as we do it. We are motivated to help our region excel socially, economically, and environmentally.

OCPC AREA ON AGENCY DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Old Colony Area Agency on Aging (AAA) during the past year, with assistance and guidance from member community advisory committee members, has continued the ongoing administration of Federal and State funding for elder services through the Older Americans Act. In federal fiscal year 2021 the total amount of that funding increased from $1.5 to over $2 million mainly due to supplemental funding through the federal CARES Act. OCPC's Area Agency on Aging collaborated with community partners such as Old Colony Elder Services, South Coastal Counties Legal Services, local Councils on Aging, and other private non-profit organizations to fund programs and services for among others: Nutrition, Legal Assistance, Transportation, and Family Caregiving for more than 100,000 people aged 60 and over in the region. Also in 2021, the AAA completed a Regional Elder Needs Assessment and a four-year Area Plan on Aging, to plan for federal fiscal years 2022 to 2025. Both the Regional Elder Needs Assessment and the Area Plan on Aging may be found at: http://www.ocpcrpa.org/aaa.html.

In Ombudsman news, the OCPC-AAA Ombudsman program is proud to have been selected as one of the 3 host agencies for the expansion of the State Assisted Living Residences (ALR) Ombudsman Program in 2021. The ALR Program Director started providing visitation to all the Assisted Living Residences in our 23 communities as well as 30 other communities which include the Cape and the Islands, as well as the Bristol, Coastline, and Hessco catchment area in September 2021. There are 64 Assisted Living Residences in this broader ALR catchment area.

The OCPC-AAA Long Term Care Ombudsman Program continued to provide services during COVID-19 despite the restrictions placed on visitations to our area nursing/rest and transitional care homes, which sidelined almost-all our Ombudsman volunteers beginning in March 2020. Although visitation resumed in person April 2021, there were numerous stops to these visits as COVID continued to enter and re-enter the homes. The program reports an increase in visitation from 2020 but the program has still not returned to meet its requirement of a visit at least every other week and in 'normal' times weekly visits. However, the calls received from family, friends, residents, and staff during the year continues to be considerably-up from previous years. Due to the acute situation in all our facilities this was often the sole means of communication that the State would allow, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program took advantage of these calls to continue efforts investigating issues of concern from residents or families.

OCPC TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Transportation Department prepared the **FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** The TIP serves as a prioritized listing of highway, bridge, and transit projects for implementation during the next five (5) federal fiscal years that reflect the needs of the regional transportation system. Funding for the implementation and construction of the following Avon & Stoughton project is included in the TIP:

- $5,754,468 for the Easton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 Including Intersection Improvements at Route 138 (Washington Street) and Elm Street Project

The department also prepared the **FFY 2022 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).** The UPWP is a one-year budget and planning document that lists the research projects, funds technical assistance, and other activities the transportation staff will undertake over the next federal fiscal year (FFY). These projects provide insight and recommendations to our municipal and regional partners, generate new data, and help shape concepts for the region's transportation future.

Road Safety Audits (RSA) were conducted at the intersection of **Turnpike Street and Depot Street**, and at the intersection of **Massapoag Avenue and Mill Street**. A Road Safety Audit is a formal evaluation of a roadway segment or intersection by an independent, multi-disciplinary team to identify specific safety recommendations. An RSA team identifies safety risks using many different information sources such as crash data, maintenance logs, interviews of roadway authorities, public testimony, and multiple field observations.

A 48-hour automatic traffic recorder vehicle counts were conducted, which includes vehicle volumes, vehicle speeds, and vehicle classifications, at three (3) locations in Easton. From this data, estimates of the number, speed, and type of vehicles that traveled each segment of road and daily vehicle miles traveled for specific groups of facilities and vehicle types are calculated.

Additionally, the **Active Transportation Study (regionwide**) was developed. This study provides an analysis of the bicycle, pedestrian, and transit network within a connectivity and safety context. The Active Transportation Study seeks to understand how the Old Colony region can improve the bicycle and pedestrian network to increase its utility for recreational and transportation purposes.

Lastly, the department prepared the **Climate Change Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Project (regionwide).** The purpose of the Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment is to identify the impacts of Climate Change on the transportation system, examine them, and assess the vulnerability of the system resulting in strategies for management and mitigation. This study builds upon previous studies prepared by OCPC including Stormwater mapping and roadway drainage runoff, Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plans, an Old Colony Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and an Old Colony 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study.

OCPC GIS DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS:

The GIS Department provided maps of natural disaster risk in the town using HAZUS, a FEMA-developed software program that analyzes risk from earthquakes, flooding and hurricanes. The maps and data were developed for the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and calculated damage costs, economic impact, and human safety impact.

Also prepared were maps of Bicycle and Pedestrian Levels of Service, a grade that measures the comfort and usability of a roadway for foot and bicycle traffic. High speeds, lack of spacing between vehicles and people, and presence of street parking are a few of the factors that can impact the level of service. The department also used data from the town to update our sidewalk database.

OCPC COMMUNITY PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (CPED) CONTRIBUTIONS:

In October OCPC commenced a series of quarterly webinars:

1. Dr. Mark Melnick, Ph.D., presented Massachusetts Economic Growth and Challenges in the Age of COVID-19.
2. Secretary Juan Vega talked about the Community One Stop for Growth program.
3. Dr. Melnick returned to provide an update with One Year Later: Massachusetts Economic Growth and Challenges in the Age of COVID-19.

A Small Business Resource Guide was developed to help local economies and our regional economy recover and become more resilient to future shocks.

OCPC was awarded a grant from the Local Pilot Program in the amount of $71,220. This pilot program project will promote regional recovery from the economic impacts of the 2019 novel Coronavirus and have a significant impact on the municipalities and businesses in the OCPC region. Communities benefiting from this program are Avon, Brockton, Easton, and Stoughton.

The DHCD Housing Choice Infrastructure grant was awarded to Easton for $225,000. The CPED staff has started working with the Town of Easton to complete an update to their ***Housing Production Plan*** *accompanied by* ***an Affordable Housing Trust Action Plan.*** The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) defines a Housing Production Plan (HPP) as "a community's proactive strategy for planning and developing affordable housing by creating a strategy to enable it to meet its affordable housing needs in a manner consistent with the Chapter 40B statute and regulations; and producing housing units in accordance with the HPP." To qualify for approval from DHCD, a Housing Production Plan must consist of three elements: a Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Affordable Housing Goals, and Implementation Strategies.

CPED developed a business directory app, signs, banners and shop local campaign called Discover Easton MA. This was made possible by a generous grant from the MA Office of Business Development. The app is free and can be downloaded through the Apple Store or Google Play. The app lists local businesses, restaurants, places to explore and information about Easton and the local government.

Additionally, the department provided Utility Rate Allowance data and reporting for the Easton Housing Authority.

One delegate and one alternate member represent each member community of the Council. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. Our website is www.ocpcrpa.org. In 2021, the Council elected Christine

Joy of Plympton as Council President; Doug Sylvestre of Stoughton as Council Treasurer; and Sandra Wright of Bridgewater as Council Secretary. Mary Waldron serves as Executive Director of the Council and also serves on the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks to the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS) Chairs Maryellen Brett and, John Murray, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Chair Josephine Schofield for their commitment, dedication, and leadership during the past year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanmarie Kent-Joyce, Delegate

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE AMES FREE LIBRARY – EASTON'S PUBLIC LIBRARY
Where the Community Connects

"Staff has continued to make the Library a welcoming and secure destination, despite all the challenges that have arisen this year." ~ Richard Arkuszewski, October 1, 2021

Statistical measures in this challenging year was an inadequate reflection of the wealth of informational and social support provided by library staff. Social distancing, the continued closing of Queset House for half the year, virtual programming, and constant vigilance in the collation and distribution of material led to qualitative over quantitative measure of productivity.

PRODUCTIVITY MEASURES	*FY21 (7/1/'20 – 6/30/'21)*
Visitors to Main Library	30,325
Collection Use	124,932
Program Attendees	7,963
Programs – Live and virtual	1,280
Reference transactions	5,715
Computer use	3,368
Registered borrowers	13,835
Hours Open	2,130
Volunteer hours – non-subsidized	100

NOTE: Fiscal year statistics (State Aid Annual Report Information Survey).

Circulation Highlights

"Authors galore! The library is my sanctuary from the little and bigger problems that confront all of us." ~ Roy Ericson, February, 2021.

1. The ebb and flow of materials being loaned and shelved slowed down during pandemic times due to the need for quarantining anything that was touched. Despite the unavoidable time delays, 38,831 items were either loaned or borrowed from other libraries, a numerical testament to the effectiveness of library consortiums, even under trying circumstances.
2. Hybrid access to library sources continued to guide all staff efforts. Accessibility to digital collections so that a reading population accustomed to physically visiting the library, could find online alternatives, was noticeably enhanced with online advisories such as *Author Read-Alike Porch, Read Alike Gardens,* and *Virtual Reading Rooms.* In addition, the new *Libby* access app was marketed in a brochure and left in Easton offices that required waiting

(dentists, hair salons, etc.). Curbside pickup continued for users unwilling to enter the building.

3. A Reading Light and Zoom Light were added to the Library of Things to enhance personal Zoom calls; as well as a Sculpto 3D printer.
4. The Nintendo Switch game collection was doubled due to high demand. Outdated gaming systems and games at Queset House were also replaced with newer versions.

Programs

"I love coming to the Ames Free Library because I get to share experiences and knowledge with other curious minds!" ~ Anonymous

For Adults:

Despite challenges, 475 in-person programs were offered in the many outdoor spaces of the library campus during good weather, and in smaller numbers when indoors. A total of 2,960 people attended.

Staff members stepped up to the plate to share personal skills and add to professional programming. Every day of the week, new online content was created for the community, until full services and hours were reinstated at the library on May 24, 2021.

- *Virtual Master Classes* organized by M. Wingfield:
    - Sparkling Wines with sommelier Tina Kanter
    - Leaving a Lighter Eco Print with Susan Mooney of Stonehill College
    - Irish Immigrants with Ed Hands
    - Regional Rosés with Tina Kanter
    - A Master Class of her Own – the Deborah Sampson story
    - 'Stay, Daughter' a talk with Yasmin Azad
- *Online groups* that continued to meet through the year:
    - Qi Gong classes offered by Dvora Eisenstein.
    - Bimonthly Zoom Writing group facilitated by Bev Post.
    - Weekly Genealogy and DNA sessions with Chris Delano
- *In-person groups* that met when possible:
    - Tai Chi in the Garden with Vince
    - Beading
    - BC Crafting
    - Knitting
    - Book Clubs – Adult and Mystery
- *In-person programs*
    - Two sessions of *Taxes and Retirement* workshops.
    - Two sessions of '*Forest Bathing with Virginia Woolf*' with Catherine Brooks.
    - A new *Scholar Series* was launched with a talk by Dr. Robert Gonsalves on the Hubble Telescope.
    - An important talk on *Alzheimer's and dementia management.*
    - C. Muratore held a crowd with her talk on *Ghosts of the Ames and Local Lore* and offered advisories on tips and tricks to get *college scholarships*.
    - Irene and Rowena, intrepid founders of *Island's Creamery*, presented a popular talk and tastings of their Fall ice cream flavors.
- Staff continued to offer *one-on-one computer lessons* as needed; as well as specific tutorials on the following:

    - Adobe Photoshop basics with Kyaunna.
    - Photography 101 with Eric
    - Converting Slides to Digital with Dana or Cali
- Julie Un's *ESOL and Conversation* Classes and tutorials continued to expand exponentially. She was joined by a volunteer team- Cynthia Watson, Michele Blake and Barbara Watterson. Together, they offered 469 classes that were attended by 1,663 students from 11 different countries! As graciously said by Julie: "It is a great joy for all of us and the students benefit greatly from the education as well as the nurturing environment we are able to provide."
- *Author talks* included: Sylvia True; Grace Talusan; Ames Sheldon; Andrew Budson; Art Milmore; Matthew Raydbard; and Yasmin Azad.
- *Music & Dance* performances: Gather Hear Tour with the unique traveling classical pianist Miki Sawada; the annual garden performance by the Sharon Concert Band; demo and explanation of dance and the creative process by the Stoneworks Dance Co. of Stonehill College.
- *Movie* screening of "Stephano" – in the library parking lot!
- *Daily Distractions* continued from January – May with:
    - Musical Mondays with L. Goldstein
    - Travel Tuesdays with L. Rubinacci
    - Wild Card Wednesdays with A. Wasilewski
    - TED Talk Thursdays with U. Hiremath
    - Stress-Free Fridays with M. Tully
    - Sesquipedalian Saturdays with A. Wasilewski
- L. Rubinacci launched *A Glimpse of Nature*, a weekly blog highlighting natural occurrences in the area. Some topics covered were:
    - Snapping Turtles
    - Gray Treefrogs
    - Cardinal Chicks
    - Tulip Trees
    - American Toads
- M. Tully launched both a *Winter Reading Bingo Challenge* as well as a *Summer Reading Program*, accompanied by self-filmed video recommendations and infographics on favorite staff reads

For Teens

12 teen-specific events were presented over the year with a total of 243 attendees.

- C.Trudeau created a series of creative 'Take & Male' kits for Teens that included STEM elements and wrote teen blogs.
- J. Pires hosted game tournaments:
    - Rocket League
    - Teen 2v2
    - Super Smash Brothers Ultimate
    - Dungeons & Dragons (teen and children)
- The ever-popular teen band, *Urban Lunchmeat*, once again brought in crowds on June 24, enhanced with a visit by the *Sweet 16 Ice Cream* truck, operated by a teen entrepreneur. The August 13 session was rained out soon after starting.

For Children

139 events for children from 0-12 years were offered with 783 attendees.

- Despite social distancing and the reality of unvaccinated children, the need for supporting early literacy was pursued with an abundance of caution. Outdoor storytimes were a hugely popular outing for covid-weary families. Indoor storytimes were less so, attended by a small core group of children and their caregivers. These were supplemented with a slew of online pre-recorded stories valiantly produced by Ms. Jess and elaborate *Imagination Run* videos by Ms. Alyisha.
- Ms. Alyisha was an invaluable assistant in creating the very popular 'Monthly Take & Make' crafts that could be done in the safety of one's home; as well as monthly 'Guessing Jars' with winners selected at the end of the month.
- *Summer Reading Program*: Monday concerts were live, but reduced to alternate weeks featuring Wayne Potash; Dinoman Dinosaurs; Ed the Wizard; Rosalita's Puppets; Matt York's songs/stories; and the Toe Jam Puppet Band
- *Clubs*: Pokémon; 'Choose Your Own Adventure' book club; and a new MA Children's Book Award club.
- *Family programs* such as the inaugural in-person Teddy Bear picnic in June; cooking classes; tea (Rex) parties; chalk-the-front-walk of the library with poetry during Poetry Month in April; beach party; penguin hunts; photo-ops with skunk, peacock and alligator tails in the children's room; Family Fun Night; high-flying dogs; and creating gnomes with Dana.
- *STEAM:* seed planting; paper sculpture; snow globe-making; popcorn steam and expansion play; flip books; 'climbing' water; book binding; CME 360 structures; bristle bots; studying solids with chocolate pudding and ice cream; CD peacocks; cartooning; nature walks; paleontology; attracting beneficials; and robot hand grabbers.
- *Dance:* A 6-week introductory dance program for ages 4-6 years was offered by Miss Alexandra of the Stoneworks Dance Company.

In addition, 608 live virtual programs and 31 recorded programs were viewed by 3,593 people of all ages. This is an estimate, as virtual programs were only counted as single registrations even if they hosted a room full of people, as could be seen in the virtual wine-tasting Master Classes!

Where the community connects

"I was so grateful to be here today to use the computer and printer. I have an iPad but it doesn't print and I wanted to write and copy my Christmas letter. Bless the Easton library and all those who help me while I am here." ~ Karen Danielson, 12-6-2021.

A wide-ranging spectrum of community partnerships continued with:

- Collection of 28 PJ's as part of the annual Bruins PJ Drive.
- Reilly Clark of Girl Scout Troop 65049 set up ten thoughtfully equipped adventure packs at the library; these could be checked out by families embarking on nature scavenger hunts.
- M. Wingfield represented the library at a 4-week long discussion of Robin DeAngelo's, *White Fragility,* along with the Human Rights Committee of Easton and raising Multi-Cultural Kids.
- Marketing for the Easton Food Pantry.
- Creating gender pathfinder for the Easton Rights Committee.
- Participating in the Chamber of Commerce's *Easton Outside* initiative.

- Staff worked to provide multiple book copies in support of the Zen Book Club at Queset Pond.
- The CFCE Toddler Learn & Playgroup resumed their popular monthly sessions at Queset House.
- Two older video game systems and games were donated to the House of Possibilities.
- In coordination with the Council of Aging, library material selected based on patron interest, was home-delivered to Easton residents by registered volunteers, re-starting in July.
- Friends of the Library and Volunteers came together in person on August 11, for a wonderful garden party organized by L. Rubinacci.
- J. Block resumed preschool visits to ELAP (Easton Learning Adventures Preschool) in the Fall and added a storytelling session at the children's consignment store, Merry Go Round.
- Temple Chayai Shalom offered a reading Tot Time at the library.
- Four more wheelchair-friendly quilts were donated by the library quilters to the Disabled & Limbless Veterans group with supplies provided for at-home quilting.
- Emergency Broadband Benefits was publicized through flyers and an inhouse informational program with V. Benzan of the MA Law Reform Institute.
- The creative Easton Garden Club once again set up a *Books in Bloom* exhibit in October.
- A food drive for the Easton Food Pantry was held in November.
- The library participated with an information tent at the popular annual NRT Harvest Festival.
- The Easton Lions Club partnered with the library to host a winter holiday event at Queset House.
- Despite covid hurdles, the Friends of the Library led by Barbara Beech, continued to zoom, meet, plan, and act on various initiatives to support library services to the Easton community. Kudos!

Facilities & Happenings

"We are so impressed with the beauty and the history of the library!" ~ Charles and Joanne Videto, Attleboro, 9-24-2021.

- The long-planned fire sprinkler system was successfully completed at Queset House by Rustic Fire Protection.
- T. Hurley installed a lockable outdoor shed in a discreet area of the Garden to store implements.
- The cathedral window at Queset House was restored by Westmill Preservation Services.
- The Division of Professional Licensure finally allowed for all three elevators in the campus to be inspected at the same time, a welcome cost-saving measure for the library.
- A closet at Queset House was readied for Meredith Bonny of Rosemary Fresh so she could store her equipment and fundraise for the library through popup meals.
- Two phone/tablet stations were installed in the main library for public use; along with a standing computer workstation at the reference desk.

- 29 Green Giant arborvitaes were planted along the campus western border, to future-proof the view from the library.
- Rachel Tyrrell rented a room at Queset House, following a downsizing by longtime tenant, BCN Productions.
- The use of the Garden was unremitting – pregnancy parties, high school portrait photos, weddings, memorials, barbecues, family picnics, dog walkers, birders, the list is unending. Saddest of all was a memorial on 9/26/2021 for larger-than-life library supporter, Avery Lee Williams.
- Visitors to the library also continued through the year, including Rep. Jake Auchincloss and PBS documentarian and Olmsted scholar, Laurence Cotton.
- At the request of W. Ames, a 'talking table' with matching stools was installed in the media room at the Main library to encourage impromptu community chatter.

Budget

"I'd like to thank Kate for letting me know about the "Library of Things", specifically the Digital Video Converter. It was a terrific convenience to be able to use it at home. It also saved me a lot of money since I didn't have to either buy the device for a single use or hire a company to convert my analog video".
~ Jason G, September 20, 2021

'Saving money' for Jason and every Easton resident, as well as bridging the broadband connectivity gap, were prominent in the use of this year's library budget. The need to channel resources in ensuring a rich variety of online resources and informational databases; free outdoor and indoor Wi-Fi, a large bank of loanable hotspots and both virtual and in-house reference support; it all felt more acute during the forced social isolation brought about by a Covid-ravaged world.
The Town is to be thanked in complying with the Municipal Appropriation Requirement for $568,685 in FY 22. This support, along with a robust year for endowments, and an ongoing determination to fundraise and succeed at attracting grant funds, converged to create sufficient funds for the library to continue striving for excellence during a formidable year. In the 21 MA towns with populations between 25,000 and 29,999, the Ames Free Library's reliance on Town funding was the lowest recorded; but in terms of total operating revenue, it was ninth as per the *2020 Public Library Statistics* reported by the MA Board of Library Commissioners.

Donations and Fundraising

"Thank you for keeping the library open! It is extra appreciated during Covid"~Laura, Kathryn, Avery, March, 2021.

- On March 8, the library received PPP loan forgiveness for $145,596.39.
- The Town graciously donated four much-needed air purifiers as well as masks, gloves and disinfectants.
- On March 13, *Irish Pub Online* presented a mix of Irish music organized by K. Kidd, a whiskey class with Ed Hands, and food and drink pick-ups from local caterers. $880 was raised in this fun experimental fundraiser.
- The Annual Appeal netted a sum of $33,601 YTD.
- The Mansfield Bank donated $2,190 to help support the Summer Reading Program.

- Warren F. Moffitt Trust left a bequest of $17,225.15 for unrestricted use by the library. 96-year old Warren Moffitt was a longtime resident who had earned five Battle Stars during WW II.
- M. Tully, who was successful in being awarded $10,000 in a competitive federal LSTA grant to record 300 Easton stories in time for Easton's 300th birthday, received the first reimbursements.
- $1,000 was reimbursed for the ALA Libraries Lead with Digital Skills grant.
- IKEA store donated 60 stuffed toys for distribution to storytime kids, following the rental of Queset House for their Manager's meeting.
- Greg Strange gifted a priceless bowl that he created from a piece of the library's original wood.
- Malik Haddadi gifted two unique drone-images of the library campus.
- The library received ten new hotspots after having applied to the Hotspot Lending Program.
- Rosemary Fresh hosted a popup dinner at Queset House, earning $350 for the library.
- Donations were made in loving memory of longtime Easton resident, Robert Crane.
- The Friends of the Library continued to support the library with donations for brochures and needed items.

Board and Staff

"The library is an essential part of the Easton community..... with an amazing work environment."~ Hailey Chan, August, 2021.

- M. Silva was conferred the rare honor of being selected as the *2021 Paralibrarian of the Year*, a competitive award for 'most outstanding library support staff' in the State of MA.
- J. Block gave a very successful presentation on *Early Literacy* at the annual conference hosted by the MA Library System (MLS) in May.
- U. Hiremath became a mentor to new Directors as part of the new SAILS Mentorship Program initiative.
- M. Wingfield, the 'social face' of the library, who spent a decade building up a culture of giving in the community, scaled back on ongoing fundraising responsibilities. She will continue to host a few fundraisers in the coming year.
- Following three very productive years, K. Kazlauskas relocated to Upton and was replaced by D. Bernardo. L. Goldstein moved closer to her home as well, having spent most of her busy tenure at the library during the covid years.
- At the end of the year, K. Davis and C. Brigante were welcomed on board to complete the Circulation staff requirements of the library.
- In a bid to enhance work-life balance, studies were done of PTO (Paid Time Off) with the aim of replacing vacation/sick/personal time with PTO as of 2022.
- In a world rendered vulnerable by the ongoing pandemic and its corollary fallouts, both core Staff and the nine-member volunteer Board of Directors, held steady. The mission of the library to serve the Easton community to the fullest possible extent served as a guiding beacon, triumphing over the vicissitudes of mask debates, vaccination requirements, materials quarantines,

air quality fears, social distancing, and an ever-present undertow of fear that the virus could hit this community space at any given moment! The Staff were brave in conquering their individual anxieties and working professionally through uncertainty and a changing set of personnel. The Board provided constancy, wisdom and skills in dealing with issues ranging from finances to human resources. On a highly personal note, this being my last report, I will miss this Staff. This Board. This town. This community. This Easton.

Respectfully submitted: Uma Hiremath, Executive Director

Library Information

Main Library: Monday – Thursday 10 – 8; Friday & Saturday 10 – 5. Closed on all major national holidays.
Queset House: Monday – Thursday 1 – 8; Friday & Saturday 1 – 5.
Tel: 508-238-2000; Email: info@amesfreelibrary.org;
Website: www.amesfreelibrary.org.
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/AmesFreeLibrary;
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Amesfreelibrary;
Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/amesfreelibrary/;
Pinterest: http://pinterest.com/amesfreelibrary/;
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/amesfreelibrary.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMES TRUST FUNDS

Following is a summary of the Ames Trust Funds held for the benefit of the Schools and Highways of the Town of Easton as of December 31, 2021.

The goal of the investment management is to maintain long-term viability while generating income for the needs of the Town in the present.

	12/31/21 Cost Basis	12/31/21 Market Value	2021 Income Paid to Town
Highways Fund	$ 5,994,751.57	$12,265,162.15	$240,000
Highways Perm. Fund	$ 264,344.50	$ 542,429.72	$ 5,000
Schools Fund	$ 5,652,976.96	$11,665,287.63	$150,000

Respectfully,

David Ames, Jr., Trustee

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
OAKES AMES MEMORIAL HALL ASSOC. INC.

WWW.OAKESAMESHALL.ORG

Income		
	Donations	21,983.00
	Friends of OAMH Income	1,230.00
	Rental Income	51,062.25
	CPA Prior Grant Remainder	6,116.36
Total Income		80,391.61
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries/Fees		
	Accounting Fees	1,260.00
	Event Security	0.00
	Janitorial Expense	2,135.00
	Landscaping Expenses	3,150.00
	Accountant	1,260.25
	Rental Agent Fee	10,250.00
		18,055.25
Utilities		
	Electricity	4,315.09
	Gas	441.79
	Heating Oil	7,903.73
	Telephone Expense	1,702.46
	Trash Collection	1,933.00
	Water Usage	103.77
		16,399.84
Fire Safety		
	Smoke and Heat Detectors, Exit Lighting	10,738.73
	Sprinkler Inspection	851.14
	License & Permits & Equipment	1,600.00
	Back Flow Inspections	87.00
		13,276.86
Insurance		
	Workers Compensation	348.00
	Liability	593.32
	Officer and Director Liability	825.00
		1,766.32

Miscellaneous

	Dispose of Stage Curtains	8,850.00
	Stage Painting and Rigging	8,245.00
	Advertising and Promotions	905.47
	Hot Water Heater	2,600.00
	Handicap Bathroom Repair	4,833.35
	Computer and Internet	867.50
	Furnaces (4) Maintenance	1,510.00
	Friends of Oakes Ames	389.56
	Office Supplies	931.31
	Postage and Mailing Address	174.00
	Printing and Copying	181.01
	General Maintenance	2,499.64
	Supplies	72.69
		32,059.52
Total Expenses		81,567.59
Net Profit (Loss)		(1,175.98)

Respectfully Submitted,

Frederick L Ames
President

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE RECLAMATION AND MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD

BRISTOL COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

38R Forest Street * Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 823-5253 * Fax: (508) 828-1868

ANNUAL REPORT -EASTON, MASSACHUSETTS
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

This year marks the 62nd anniversary of the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and its services to the cities and towns of Bristol County. We at the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project have made changes to comply with the many new restrictions created by the pandemic but continue to provide uninterrupted services to the residents of Bristol County.

Our mission is to bring mosquito populations to tolerable levels using a variety of scientifically effective methodologies consistent with applicable laws. Surveillance, water management, biological and chemical controls are performed in an environmentally sensitive manner to minimize potential effects on people, wildlife and the environment.

The Project continues to make investments in new technologies that increase our efficiency and accuracy when fulfilling our mandate. We remain committed to applying environmentally responsible larvicide and adulticide products. Our surveillance program, along with service request data and updated GPS and computer equipment, allow us to focus our pesticide applications to targeted areas.

Disease risk from mosquitoes changes greatly from year to year. This is due to many environmental variables that change every season. Because of this constant change in risk, BCMCP works in close relationship with the MA Dept. of Public Health to analyze disease risk in current and future years.

During the 2021 mosquito season, 25,339 individual mosquitoes in 615 samples were tested for the mosquito borne viruses EEE and WNV. There were no isolations of EEE and no human cases in the County. Bristol County had sixteen (16) mosquito samples test positive for WNV with one (1) reported human case. There were no equine cases for EEE or WNV.

The Project continues its year round efforts to reduce mosquito breeding areas through water management and source reduction. Our goal is to remove debris, silt and vegetation from drainage ditches to improve water flow, thus eliminating standing water conducive to larval development. Work is conducted using mechanized machines and by hand.

Bristol County Mosquito Control Project completed the following work in the Town of Easton during the time period of January 1, 2021– December 31, 2021.

- Sprayed over 10,602 acres

- Treated 29.63 acres in 35 locations with *B.t.i.* for mosquito larvae
- Received and completed 519 requests for spraying
- Cleared and reclaimed 3,675 feet of brush
- Treated 720 catch basins
- Additionally, 1197 acres of the Hockomock swamp and 27 acres in a cattail swamp in the Foundry St. area were treated by aerial larvicide.

Throughout the year, we strive to educate the public concerning mosquito borne diseases and simple ways residents can protect themselves and help prevent breeding on their own property. We have many types of outreach programs available including speaking at public health events, radio/newspaper interviews, visiting local schools, senior centers, and creating informational handouts for distribution. Be sure to check out our website: www.mass.gov/eea/bristolcountymosquitocontrol for updates and information.

I would like to thank the town officials and residents of Easton for their continued support and cooperation. Our Project is extremely proud of the work we perform and look forward to serving our communities in the upcoming year. If there are any questions concerning the Project's efforts or objectives, please feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Matton
Superintendent

January 5, 2022

Bristol County Mosquito Control Commissioners:

JOSEPH BARILE, CHAIRMAN
GREGORY D. DORRANCE
CHRISTINE FAGAN
HENRY R. VAILLANCOURT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

Overview

The purpose of the **Easton Cultural Council (ECC)** is to award grants based on an allocation received annually from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The ECC's goal is to support public programs that promote education, diversity, excellence in, and access to the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Its mission is to affect directly the residents of Easton, to achieve the greatest community benefit, and to cultivate the arts through participation and appreciation. The ECC endeavors to make cultural opportunities accessible to all segments of the population, including but not limited to all racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, veterans, women, and children. We are pleased to say that we were able to fund several programs that will enrich the lives of Easton townspeople of all ages and backgrounds.

Management

In 2021 the Council had, at various times, 12 different members. Our present roster includes Co-Chairs Beth Goldman Galer and Stephanie Power, Secretary Pamela Borbely, Treasurer Ashlee Rafeld, Elizabeth Aponte, Theresa Coney, and Majorie Liew. Members who served earlier in 2021 but who are no longer on the Council include Debra Lally, Michelle McGee, Douglas O'Roak, Linda Paolucci, and Catherine Sutton (who chaired the Council for the first half of the year).

Activities and Projects

In February 2021 the Council met to consider all grant applications received by the state's deadline. The Council was able to award 24 grants totaling $12,119. Grantees included Hit and Run History's Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck; Titi Ngwenya's Brave Space Book Club; Thea Iberall's We Did it for You! - Women's Journey Through History; Natural Deathcare Collaborative's Making Art While Grieving Death; Raising Multicultural Kids' Diverse Leadership in Early Education; Miki Sawada's Gather Hear Massachusetts; The Un-Common Theater Company's Elf the Musical; Fuller Craft Museum's FullerCRAFT@home; Friends of Jennings Hill's History and Preservation of Early Historic Landmarks; The Road to Diversity and Understanding's Community Forums & Discussions; Janet Applefield's Combating Hate and Prejudice; Neponset Choral Society's 2020-2021 Concert Season; Kirk Whipple's Duo Pianists, Composers & Educators; Old Colony History Museum's Passport to History; Dr. "The Machine" Jesse Green's Chainsaws, Cheeseburgers & Rock n' Roll Live; Michael Korn's Easton Chamber Music Festival; Jubilate Chorale, Inc.'s A Celtic Journey; Rachel Daly's Hornithology Ensemble - Celebration; Easton Human Rights Committee's Rise up for Humanity; R.I.S.E.'s Empowerment Rally for Girls; Brockton Symphony Orchestra's Music Matters; Yoron Israel's Jazz in the Sanctuary - South Shore; SMARTS Collaborative's Virtual Enrichment Programs; and MUSIC Dance.edu's Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Goldman Galer, Co-Chair
eastonculturalcouncil@gmail.com

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON SHOVEL TOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP TEAM

A Cultural District is a specific geographical area in a city or town with a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets; is a walkable, compact area easily identifiable to visitors and residents; and serves as a center of cultural, artistic, and economic activity.

The Easton Shovel Town Cultural District begins at the Unity Church on Main Street and travels down North Main Street to Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, around the Rockery and extends to Pond Street. The District includes Oliver Street and Sullivan Avenue down to the Children's Museum.

Contributing businesses located in the District are Auntie Zaza's Fiber Works, Mind Body Barre Studio, Farmer's Daughter Restaurant, Easton Yoga Studio, La Cucina Restaurant, Bliss, Bill's House of Pizza, Open Doors Yoga Studio, Paint rust and Pixie Dust Gift Store, Old Colony YMCA, Easton Public Schools Administration, Easton Community Access Television, and Langwater Farm Stand.

The District Partnership Team works to support local artists and brings free or low-cost events to the community so all can experience arts and culture in the downtown area.

The District Partnership Team also manages the Art Coop/Gallery located in the small Cape House at 50 Main Street at the front of the ShovelWorks Apartments. The Coop/Gallery is open on Saturdays and showcases work by local artists, Reena Bates, Bev Carlson, Linda Clary, Claire Dalton, Kyaunna Hall, Katherine Honey, Melanie Horris, MaryLu Love, Kevin Mulligan, Jane Ostlund, and Ines Smrz. Paintings, photography, handmade jewelry, stained glass, and wood turned art are available to view and purchase.

Although COVID put a halt to many planned indoor and outdoor events this year, the team was able to host several successful events in collaboration with Oakes Ames Hall:

- Summer Concert Series with performances by:
  Craig Carter with Special Guest Billy Sciore
  Dave Spagnone
  Key Element/Two Man Experience: Jack Colombo, John Strangis and Bobby Venuto, and Bird Mancini
  Tommy Raines & Steve Giordano opening for Movin' On

- Holiday Extravaganza featuring Dave Spagone, Tommy Raines & Company, and the Bad Company tribute band, Movin On.

- Decorated and donated a winter themed Christmas Tree to support the Easton Festival of Trees.

The team would like to thank all the local artists, musicians and businesses that work together to advance arts and culture in our beautiful town. We also thank the Mass Cultural Council for their continued support and funding as well as the donors and patrons that allow us to do this work. Finally, we thank the community for taking the time to attend and enjoy the performances, visit the Art Coop/Gallery and support our local artists.

The Cultural District was created and championed by Carolyn Cole. She was a smart, thoughtful, and tireless advocate for arts and culture. Sadly, Carolyn passed away in early January 2022. She will be fondly remembered and appreciated for the time and talent she contributed to this community.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Fulginiti, Chair
Joan Lundgren, Vice-Chair
Suzanne Bump, Treasurer
Pamela Borbely, Marketing Officer
Kristin Stone, Secretary
Mark Vinocoor, Alternate Member

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SERVICES GROUP
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Moira Rouse, Regional Administrator

Procurement and other services are provided to the Town of Easton by the Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) and have been since the organization's inception in 1993. Annual dues of $4,100 support one Regional Administrator, who serves twenty-five towns and cities; the last dues increase was 2012. The Town saves this amount by devoting less skilled-staff time to common procurements and document preparation. SERSG contract prices are generally lower than state contracts and require less time to use.

Easton used SERSG contracts for many purchases and utilized subsidized trainings. The Town also participated in six bids with contracts that took effect between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Those contracts were for DPW Supplies, Water & Sewer Treatment Chemicals, Office Supplies, Paper, DPW Services, and Drug & Alcohol Testing.

- Early in 2021, contracts were secured for 26 DPW Supply items, and 3 Water/Sewer Chemicals. The estimated value of these combined supply contracts is $451,574.
- Easton saves using SERSG contracts instead of state contracts even for common purchases like fuel. This is because SERSG prices for gas and diesel fuel are $0.196 and $0.076 lower than the state contract prices, respectively, saving the town $17,360 annually for these two items alone.
- During the year, a new two-year Office Supply contract began providing a 57.8% discount off list price (for non-excluded items using a standard wholesaler's catalog), with ink and toner cartridges discounted by 32.8%. Easton spent $58,539 on office supplies, while saving $53,134 off list price during the year.
- The Town and schools pay competitive fixed prices for Paper using a SERSG contract, which provides 15 distinct items with both recycled and non-recycled options. By the end of this period, Easton had spent $3,503 under this contract.
- DPW Service bids were received in November and have resulted in 8 new contracts that take effect in 2022. New contracts for 19 services have an estimated value of $393,681. The Town also renewed contracts with an estimated value of $595,795 to support public works.
- Drug and Alcohol Testing Services were secured in October 2020. A new three-year contract took effect 1/1/21 and provides this federally-required service with current features, quality service and competitive pricing.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Overview

The Town of Easton Information Technology Department provides computer and technical support and service for the Easton Town Offices, the Department of Public Works, the Water Division, the Police and Fire Departments and the School Business Office.

Management

Michael Deltano, Information Systems Manager

The Information Technology Department is located at 136 Elm Street, on the second floor.

Activities and Projects

Information Technology is responsible for 34 servers, 129 desktop computers, 87 notebook computers and 15 tablets. All sites are connected with Town owned 1GB fiber optic lines with the exception of Fire Station #2 which is connected using a secure wireless tunnel to the tower in back of Fire Station #1. The Town Offices accesses the Internet thru a Verizon FiOS line. All of the other town departments access the Internet thru a Verizon FiOS line located at the Police station.

Most of the Town's servers are virtual, utilizing the Microsoft Hyper V platform. There are 28 virtual machines running predominantly the Microsoft Windows Server 2016, 2012R2 and 2008R2 64 bit operating systems. There are still 2 legacy servers running the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 32 bit operating system. All these virtual servers run on only 4 physical servers, running Microsoft Windows Server 2016, to enable memory and processor sharing. There are 6 other physical servers running either Microsoft Windows Server 2008R2 or 2012R2 mostly for domain controller functions. The Town's email functions are performed on a virtual Exchange 2013 server hosted locally in our Hyper V environment. Email archiving is done with Intradyn's Email Archiving & Discovery utilizing a Hyper V Linux server. Backups are performed with Veeam servers also hosted in our Hyper V environment.

There are two data centers, one at the Town Offices and the other at the Police Station. The virtual environments are split between the two data centers. Also, each data center has 2 Dell EqualLogic storage arrays which contain the volumes for all of the virtual servers. Each night the Town Offices servers are replicated to the Police Station arrays and the Police/DPW servers are replicated to the Town Offices arrays through Veeam. This allows the Town to have a very dynamic disaster recovery plan.

Currently we are using an integrated municipal application from a company known as SoftRight, a Springbrook owned company, out of Westford, Massachusetts. The Town went live with the SoftRight Payroll application On January 1 of 2009. Since that time we have migrated all of our other applications including General Ledger, Budget, Accounts Payable & Purchasing, Fixed Assets, Payroll & Personnel, Treasury Receipts, Collector's Receivables, Tax Title, Water Billing and Trash Billing.

Also the Town's I.T. department uses Utopic's Persystent Software for creating and distributing images to new and existing computer systems. Not only does this software make it faster and more efficient to roll out new systems but it will also help in disaster recovery situations if any of the town's computers become corrupted with malware. Department based software images can be created and stored in the virtual environment and then easily rolled out to any hardware platform with the correct hardware drivers.

This year I.T. had no major projects planned because of very large projects scheduled for FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024. Which was a good thing because the single most significant challenge was all due to supply chain issues. Every piece of hardware ordered throughout the year was delayed weeks and in some cases months. All of the computer upgrades were approximately 4-6 weeks late. And when they did arrive they were all missing DVD-RW drives. Those took another 10 weeks and didn't arrive until April. Usually computer upgrades are finished by the May-June time frame but in 2021 they were not fully complete until early October. Just in time for the next cycle.

Michael Deltano
Information Systems Manager
mdeltano@easton.ma.us
(508) 230-0571

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Overview

The five-member Easton Agricultural Commission is appointed by the Select Board and charged with promoting, preserving, encouraging, and facilitating sustainable agricultural activities within Easton. The Agricultural Commission typically met on the second Wednesday of each month but has recently changed to Thursday evenings. Eight (8) meetings were held in 2021. Minutes and Agendas are posted on the Town website.

We would like to thank Bridget Lawrence-Meigs for her service as a member of the Agricultural Commission. Ms. Lawrence-Meigs did not seek reappointment, having accepted a farm manger position at a larger educational farm in Connecticut. The Agricultural Commission would also like to thank Andrea Langhauser, Assistant Director of Planning, for her guidance and support and wish her a happy retirement.

Activities and Projects

The Wheaton Farm Community Garden opened in April with a safety plan and sanitizer stations installed in accordance with COVID public health safety standards. Plots are rented on a yearly basis, with notice in the Town Crier and website in February. There was an increased interest in joining the Community Garden, with a wait list created for the first time. All twenty four (24) plots were planted, but gardeners were limited to sixteen (16) to maintain social distancing. Langwater Farm tills the garden plots as one of the services provided for renting the nearby fields. Flynn Landscaping donated the compost. All excess produce was harvested and donated to the residents of the Easton Housing Authority.

In June 2021, the Agricultural Commission began creating a Farmers Survey to create a Easton Farmer's Directory. The purpose of the survey is to provide information to potential customers and is a wonderful way for the Agricultural Commission to support local farmers.

In December of 2021, the Agricultural Commission welcomed a guest speaker from the Marion Institute to discuss the 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment available here https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/food-system-assessment .

Thank you to all who have donated their time and energy toward the operation of the Community Garden and who have supported agriculture in Easton, including Langwater Farms, Flynn Landscaping, Bill Matthews, Remo Melillo, Edmund Hands and Matt Soeldner.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Silverman, Chair
Rory O'Dwyer, Vice-Chair
Michael Luke
Grant West
Matt Soeldner

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

To the Select Board and residents of the Town of Easton

Overview

The Human Resources Board is comprised of three members who all reside in the Town of Easton. The Board meets at least one time per year to provide recommendations for the implementation and administration of the Classification Plan and Salary Plan for Non-Union employees. The Human Resources Board maintains written job descriptions in the classification plan and shall periodically review the duties of all such positions and classes.

2021 Activities

The Human Resources Board met once in 2021 with the purpose of reorganizing and to review two proposed new non union job descriptions. Details of the HRB meetings can be viewed on the Town's website at https://eastontownma.documents-on-demand.com. See the summary below:

- On December 13, 2021 the Board reorganized as they are required to do each year and elected a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. At this meeting the Board also reviewed proposed new non union job descriptions for the positions of Benefits/Grant Navigator and Community Outreach Liaison/Mental Health Counselor. Town Administrator Connor Read, Director of Health & Community Services Kristin Kennedy and Chief of Police Gary Sullivan reviewed the proposed new job description with the Board and answered classification questions. The Board voted unanimously to accept the newly created job descriptions and classifications as proposed.

Respectfully submitted:
Mahsa Khanbabai, Chair
Jennifer Toone Campanella
Robert MacLennan, Secretary

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Committee's charge is:

- To promote Easton's vision of a community that has as its core values freedom from bigotry, hatred, intolerance, and disrespect.

- To build a stronger, more unified Town that respects and recognizes both our diversity and our commonalities.

- To work with community groups and agencies to educate and to promote understanding to eliminate prejudice and intolerance.

- To confront statements and actions that conflict with the core values expressed above.

The Human Rights Committee is currently comprised of 9 at-large members of the community as well as the Town Civil Rights Officer and representatives from the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.

In the 2021 calendar year, the Committee:

- Worked with Oliver Ames High School to put together an art contest to capture symbols/images of diversity. The winning artwork was turned into stickers and distributed to the community. Artwork was also put onto t-shirts for volunteers.
- Solicited input from the community regarding the Religious Holiday Observance Calendar prepared and distributed by the committee.
- Provided an updated Religious Holiday Observance Calendar to all school personnel outlining the observance of religious holidays and the impact of such observance on students and the school day
- Hosted a listening session on gender identity, encouraging participants to learn about the different ways a person defines and conceptualizes their gender.
- Hosted a listening session on physical disabilities from ADA compliance to promoting inclusion within our society, hear from people who have first-hand experience within the disability community.
- Continued to perform outreach to influential community partners such as schools, the library, and other important community partners and institutions.
- Supported and partnered with the Raising Multicultural Kids (RMK) nonprofit organization for events and activities focused on race and discrimination topics.
- Served as liaison for community members and HRC and partner events through our HRC Ally email list.
- Hosted a Collaborative Art Project at the Natural Resources Trust (NRT) Harvest Festival with a messaging surrounding diversity - "In diversity there is beauty and there is strength."
- Provided the finished art project from the NRT to community partners including Easton's Council on Aging and Oliver Ames High School.
- Ordered and distributed Hate Has No Home Signs to the community.
- Refined and added resources to the Human Rights Committee webpage.

- Marched in the annual Lions Club festival at the Rockery in December.

The Human Rights Committee is eager to partner with existing groups and can be reached via email at humanrights@easton.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Chan, Chair
Alison Urcioli, Vice-Chair

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EASTON COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Overview

The **Commission on Disability (COD)** is responsible for: (1) researching local problems of people with disabilities; (2) advising and assisting town officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities; (3) coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts Office on Disability; (4) reviewing and making recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of the Town as they affect people with disabilities; (5) providing information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability; and (6) coordinating activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

Membership

Jason Sutton, Chair
Antal Basa, Jr., Vice Chair
William McAuley, Secretary
Adam Riveiro, Treasurer
Maya Evohr, Member
Matthew Riley, Member
Allan Katz, Member – resigned in November 2021
Kevin Greiner, ADA Coordinator / Ex-officio
Dottie Fulginiti, Select Board Liaison

Activities and Projects

We provided assistance and advice, regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Access Board standards and general accessibility needs of disabled persons and students, to the architectural team and building committee for the Early Education School Project. We initiated and coordinated the repair of the walkway between the Middle School and Richardson Olmstead Elementary School to make it safe and accessible to people with and without disabilities. We worked with the town engineer in submitting grant applications to the Massachusetts Office on Disability for the removal of various building access barriers in town. We helped and worked with Easton Public Schools, Easton Police Department, Ames Free Library and several local businesses and residential developers to improve handicap parking and overall accessibility at town events, buildings and properties.

We assisted in overseeing the initial stages of the Town Hall renovation project. We worked with the Human Rights Committee in conducting a community listening session to make the community more aware of the experiences and barriers encountered by those with disabilities. We made efforts to continually update the disabled community on Covid-19 vaccine availability options. Worked with DPW in assessing the condition, use and availability of access panels to be used at town sponsored events to help people with ambulatory disabilities traverse outdoor surfaces. We worked with the town assessor's office in making the disability tax exemption status of residents confidential on the town's online assessor's property card database. We received the donation of a garage wheelchair lift by a generous resident and worked with Independence Associates in finding someone in the community who could use it.

We identified and advised construction crews on various roadway projects of accessibility barriers and had them corrected. We worked with Easton Public Schools in improving transportation services for special needs students. We had a representative serve on the Wayfinding Sign Committee assisted with the design of signs to ensure people with visual impairments could read them. We worked with the town engineer in updating and adding to the town's ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan by assessing and reporting ADA compliance issues identified at town buildings, open space and recreation properties.

Chair Jason Sutton is the person to contact if a resident has a problem (see contact information below).

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Sutton, Chair
cod@easton.ma.us
(774) 281-0235

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF GREEN COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Overview

The mission of the Easton Green Communities Committee is to help raise awareness, educate, advise, and motivate Town of Easton residents and businesses to reduce waste, reduce energy use, conserve resources, reduce emissions/carbon footprint, and to embrace clean and renewable energy options.

Committee Members

Christina Refford, Chair
Craig Barger, Select Board Designee (through April 2021)
Jamie Stebbins, Select Board Designee (beginning May 2021)
Valerie Frank
Nick Mollo (through June 2021)
Robin Haverly (beginning August 2021)
Rupsa Roy (beginning October 2021)

Activities and Projects

The Green Communities Committee conducted all 2021 meetings via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also had one member resignation (moved out of the area), two new members, and a change to our Select Board Designee.

The following is an outline of 2021 projects:

- **Plastic Bag Ban Update:**
    - Committee continued to notify the Easton Board of Health of stores that were not in compliance with the town's plastic bag restrictions. BOH followed up with the stores directly.
    - In January, the Committee contacted Target about their thicker 4mm "reusable" plastic bags which they had begun using after thin-film plastic bags were banned. In response to the Committee's request, Target switched to reusable, washable, and recyclable bags in the Easton store location. Committee then followed up with them until they had installed a recycling container for the bags for their customers.
    - Committee spoke to Easton Food Pantry to set up a collection box for reusable bags but COVID-19 contamination concerns have put this on hold for now.
    - In November, a letter was sent to Roche Brothers to ask them to reconsider their usage of thicker 4mm plastic bags in their stores.

- **NRT Harvest Fair:** The Green Communities Committee set up a booth at this popular October fair to interact with members of the community:
    - "Can you recycle this?" game: Committee members asked visitors about commonly recycled items using props. Had great participation and conversation with both adults and kids as they learned about frequent recycling mistakes and how these can drive up the cost of waste disposal.
    - Created a display featuring a rainbow of reusable bags and invited booth visitors to enter to win their own set of bags. This allowed the

    - Committee to remind people about the single-use plastic bag ban and the reasons behind it.
    - Provided information about composting and other programs.
    - Committee invited a representative from Mass Save to be available to answer questions about their money-saving programs. Created a QR code so that visitors could save the Mass Save website for future reference.

- **Greener Lawn Care**: Committee discussed best ways to encourage the town to move to organic practices for municipal properties. In August, the Committee spoke to Chip Osborne of Osborne Organics about their training program for towns, and also spoke to TURI (Toxics Use Reduction Institute) about their 2021 grant programs. Was advised that TURI grants for the upcoming year would be focused toward municipalities with the greatest financial need, especially environmental justice communities which are not prevalent in Easton.

- **Water Restrictions:** Committee offered to help the Water Department with water restriction education and enforcement. Created social media message to remind residents of the watering restrictions in place through November which ran on the town Facebook page and other local Facebook group pages. Also spoke to Easton Garden Club about low-water plants; they compiled a list of plants which will be organized and posted on our website for the upcoming Spring.

- **Mass Save/Self Help:** Committee had several conversations with both Mass Save and Self Help about their energy-savings programs for Easton residents. Had a Mass Save resident at the Committee's NRT Harvest Fair booth and will continue to look for ways to partner with these organizations.

- **Outreach:**
    - Committee met with members of the Conservation Commission and Easton Garden Club as well as attending seminars/presentations from the Sierra Club and Pearl's Premium Ultra Low-Maintenance Lawn Seed.
    - Sent outreach letters to state reps and other town leaders to get updates or offer support for green initiatives.
    - In May, guest and Easton resident Kyla Bennett attended our meeting to express her concerns about aerial and ground spraying for mosquitoes. Committee communicated concerns over ground spraying for mosquitoes to Easton's Board of Health. Would like residents to be aware of how to opt out of ground spraying if desired.
    - With a change in Select Board Designee and changes to our roster, the Committee reached out to the Select Board and Town Administrator to discuss how it can best serve the town going forward. Committee identified a few different areas where it could be of best use, recognizing that some outreach has been hampered by the pandemic and limited community programs.
        - Committee was asked to consider putting together a "Welcome to Green Easton" guide of resources for both new and existing residents.

        - Encouraged to continue educational outreach as COVID-19 restrictions lessen and more opportunities become available.
        - Advised to identify and focus on a short list of "priority" issues instead of trying to follow too many topics.

- **Member Changes:** In June 2021, long-time Green Communities Committee member, Nick Mollo, resigned from the committee due to a move outside of the region. We would like to thank Nick for his years of service to GCC. We welcomed two new members, Robin Haverly and Rupsa Roy, in August and October, respectively.

The committee continues to welcome input and advice from our community partners and members of the general public.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Refford
Chair
Green Communities Committee
christina@refford.com

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Office of the Town Clerk was tasked in the year of 2021 with the planning, execution, implementation and recording of one (1) election and two (2) town meetings. With only one election in 2021, compared to the 6 in 2020, the Office of the Town Clerk spent a considerable amount of time and energy on the cleanup of non-election related functions that we were not able to address to the fullest in 2020. Although the Town Offices re-opened to the public in May of 2021, many residents enjoyed and continued to take advantage of the online services as an alternative to in person interactions. Rather than simply returning to pre-covid in person operations, the Clerk's Office altered its internal operations to offer both in person and expanded online services to address the needs of the community.

With the onset of Covid-19, the state legislature passed expansion of early voting in person for the fall 2020 elections and the implementation of countless new election laws. No excuse early voting by mail was permitted for the first time in Massachusetts. Many of the Covid-19 election measures were extended in 2021 as part of temporary emergency legislation. There is much discussion regarding permanent changes to Massachusetts election laws on Beacon Hill but the legislation was unable to pass anything by the end of 2021. Election Officials across Massachusetts anxiously await these anticipated changes and hope for early action in 2022 so proper planning time exists for the 2022 fall election cycle.

Re-Precincting

A considerable amount of time and energy was dedicated in 2021 to the Re-Precincting process that follows a Decennial Federal Census. In accordance with MGL 54 §6, 2020 census block-level data is used to draw precinct boundaries with requirements that include (1) no more than 4,000 residents per precinct and (2) +/- 5% variance of the average precinct population of all precincts. With an 8.42% population growth from 2010 (23,112) to 2020 (25,058) Federal census numbers, Easton will need to increase from 6 to 7 precincts beginning in 2022. Although the Select Board accepted Easton's preferred reprecincting map at their meeting on October 18, 2021, it was necessary to redraw precinct lines to reduce the number of split state representative districts that resulted when the legislature approved their redistricting maps using 2010 precinct lines. The Clerk's Office would like to thank Leon Scott, GIS Manager for the Town of Easton, for his efforts on this project.

			Districts	
Precinct	2020 Population	Variance	Senate	State Rep
1	3,753	4.83%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	9th Plymouth
2	3,586	0.17%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	9th Plymouth
3	3,687	2.99%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	9th Plymouth
4	3,436	-4.02%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	3rd Bristol / 9th Plymouth
5	3,442	-3.85%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	3rd Bristol
6	3,586	0.17%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	3rd Bristol
7	3,568	-0.34%	Norfolk, Bristol, Plymouth	9th Plymouth
	25,058			
	3,580	Average Per Precinct		

Town Clerk's Office - Staff

The Office of the Clerk has three full time employees as follows:

Danielle M Sicard - Town Clerk	(DOH 2/27/17)
Peter L Van Der Hey – Records Manager & Compliance Officer	(DOH 8/1/16)
Sharyn B Stedman– Assistant Town Clerk	(DOH 7/1/21)
Denise J Morgan – Part Time Principal Clerk	(DOH 7/1/21)

The Office of the Town Clerk is located at Town Hall, 136 Elm Street, Easton, MA 02356. The Town Clerk's Office can be contacted via email at townclerksoffice@easton.ma.us or by phone at 508-230-0530.

On July 1, 2021 the Town Clerk's Office welcomed a new Assistant Town Clerk who came with 10 years' experience working in the Town Clerk's Offices. We also welcomed Denise Morgan, who had been providing additional support during elections and the census processing seasons for the past 2 years, with the onset of a new part time Principal Clerk position in the Town Clerk's Office.

In addition to the full-time and part-time staff listed above the Town Clerk's Office continued to utilize senior tax work off program participants (3 in 2021). The additional support, provided through the new part time position and senior tax workers, is instrumental in allowing our office the ability to accomplish all of its responsibilities.

Board of Registrars

Board of Registrars provide certification of nomination papers, conduct voter registration sessions and conduct voter recounts, when required. There are four Board of Registrars fo the Town of Easton as follows:

Danielle M Sicard, Town Clerk
Alex Drosos
Barbara M Lerner
Michelle McGee – term began 4/26/2021
Benjamin T Carroll – term ended 3/31/2021

Office of the Town Clerk Mission Statement

To facilitate the efforts of Easton residents, visitors and employees to access public information in an efficient, transparent and timely manner, to enable voters to avail themselves of the democratic process, to provide high quality service in a courteous and professional manner, to strive to improve both the office and its employees through habitual innovation and education, to preserve and promote the history of the town through its historical documents and artifacts, and to comply with federal, state and local statutes.

General Powers and Duties

The Easton Town Clerk is appointed by the Town Administrator and holds the rank of department head. The Town Clerk, supported by staff, has five major functions: Chief Election Officer, Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics, Records Access Officer, Record and Recording Officer and Licensing Officer. In addition, the Town Clerk's Office manages multiple facets of public body administration relative to management of records that include implementation of the Open Meeting Law and State Ethics Conflict of Interest Laws that were revised in 2010.

Elections & Town Meetings - Chief Election Officer

The Town Clerk acts as the Chief Election Officer, responsible for administering all local, state and federal elections in accordance with Massachusetts & Federal Election Laws and CMR's.

The Town Clerk's Office handles voter registrations, deletions, party and address changes on a daily basis through the State's Voter Registration Information System (VRIS) and sends notices to those individuals as required by law. Residents may register to vote in person, by mail or online.

The Town Clerk's Office conducts an annual street list, known as the Town Census, and publishes the results in a permanent record, known as a Street List Book.

The Town Clerk is responsible for the submittal of new or amended bylaws approved at Town Meetings to the Attorney General as prescribed in M.G.L. c. 40 s. 32. The Town Clerk's Office maintains a current Town Code book online (Charter, Bylaws, Zoning Bylaws, and Regulations) through General Code to provide citizens, town officials and town employee's quick and accurate access to the Town's Code.

The following voter records were processed in the Town of Easton in 2021:

Voter Registrations:	New Voters:	1,042
	Deleted Voters:	1,720
	Voter Changes:	6,668
Census Processing:	1st Mailing:	10,096 households

The total # of registered voters in the Town of Easton on December 31, 2021 was 17,304.

The following Elections and Town Meetings were recorded in the Town of Easton in 2021:

• ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION	APRIL 24, 2021
• ANNUAL TOWN MEETING	MAY 17, 2021
• SPECIAL TOWN MEETING	NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Results from each Election and Town Meeting in 2021 are provided within this Annual Town Report.

Registrar of Vital Records & Statistics and Burial Agent

The Town Clerk acts as the Town Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics, accepting filings, maintaining records and archiving permanent records of all births, deaths and marriages that occur in Easton. The Town Clerk is authorized to issue certified copies of birth, death and marriage records that they have on record. The fee for obtaining a certified copy of a vital record is **$20.00** for the first copy and **$10.00** for each additional copy (if requested when obtaining first copy).

The Town Clerk issues marriage licenses. Persons wishing to obtain a license must file their intentions with the Town Clerk in person (*except for those cases where one person is in the military or incarcerated*). A license is available to have a ceremony performed three days after filing the intentions to be married and is valid for sixty days from filing the intentions. The cost of a marriage license in Easton is **$50.00**.
The following vital records were recorded in the Town of Easton in 2021:

		Certified copy requests:	
		1st copy	Additional copies
Births:	199	392	56
Deaths*:	227	261	483
Marriages:	89	129	53
Marriage Intentions:	94		

The Town Clerk is also the Burial Agent for the Town of Easton and recorded the following in 2021:

Burial Permits:	102

*12 deaths in Easton in 2021 listed Covid-19 as part of the cause of death compared to 41 in 2020.

Records Access Officer

The Town Clerk acts as Records Access Officer in accordance with Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016. The Records Access Officer is responsible for coordinating a response to requests for access to public records, assisting individuals seeking public records in identifying the records requested, and preparing guidelines that enable requestors to make informed requests regarding the availability of such public records electronically or otherwise.

The following Public Records Requests were tracked and recorded in the Town of Easton Public Records software that is managed by the Town Clerk's Office in 2021:

	Town Hall Offices	Fire Department
Public Records Requests recorded:	124	73

Keeper of Records - Record and Recording Officer

The Town Clerk serves as the custodian of town records and official documents and is responsible for the maintenance, preservation and disposition of all town records. State law provides that the Town Clerk is the official keeper of the Town Seal and the Town's Oath Book. The Town Clerk's Office is required by state law to ensure that town records are readily available for public inspection.

Archival Management

The Town Clerk oversees the execution of policies and orders of the Supervisor of Public Records, and provisions of MGL. C.66. The Office of the Town Clerk, with the assistance of the Records Manager & Compliance Officer, develop and implement procedures, standards and techniques for ensuring adequate custody, preservation, destruction, recovery and accountability of records as part of the town's archival management program.

Public Body Administration

Upon each appointment, all members of a public body are required to be sworn in and acknowledge the receipt of the Open Meeting Law materials, State Ethics Conflict of Interest Summary and Town of Easton's Social Media Policy, which is done through the Office of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's Office in Easton provides notice of appointment to all Board of Selectmen appointees and maintains a database with compliance records.

Ethics – Conflict of Interest

The Town Clerk acts as Ethics Liaison who is responsible for distributing the ethics summary annually and ensuring that all employees and board and committee members are complying with the state requirements by completing the online training every two years.

Open Meeting Law

The Open Meeting Law requires all public bodies to post their meeting agendas within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. All postings are done through the Office of the Town Clerk and are posted on the bulletin board at Town Hall and on the town's website. Minutes are also submitted to the Town Clerk for posting to the town's website after approval.

Licensing Officer

In 2021, the following licenses and permits were issued or recorded by the Office of the Town Clerk in the Town of Easton:

Dog Licenses: 3039
DBA Business Certificates: 159 discontinuance/changes 11
Yard Sale Permits: 30
Raffle Permits: 5

Dog Licenses

All dog owners in the Town must obtain a license for their dog(s) annually. The license period is January 1st – December 31st. A license will be issued only if the owner has evidence of a rabies vaccination, which is valid as of the date of issuance. The fee for a dog license is **$10.00** for a spayed or neutered dog, **$15.00** for unaltered. A late fee of **$5.00 per month** is added if the dog is not licensed before March 1st or within 60 days of arrival to the Town of Easton or obtaining the dog(s). Owners of unlicensed dogs are also subject to a citation and pick up fee in accordance with Chapter 104 of the bylaws of the Town of Easton. If you have four or more dogs, you must receive permission from the Easton Zoning Board of Appeals before obtaining a kennel license from the Town Clerk's Office.

We continue to see an increase in dog licenses year over year since the office has been actively working to increase awareness relative to the public health purpose for dog licenses and verification of proper rabies vaccinations.

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Dog Licenses	3,039	2,827	2,763	1,945	1,676	1,692

DBA Business Certificates

All "doing business as" or "DBA" Business Certificates are filed with the Town Clerk. Once filed, a DBA certificate is valid for four years. The fee for filing is **$50.00**.

Yard Sale Permits

Yard sales may be held in the Town of Easton, pursuant to a permit granted by the Office of the Town Clerk, as the Agent of the Board of Selectmen. Chapter 193 of the Town of Easton Bylaws regulate the activity of offering for sale secondhand articles within residential areas of the community. The fee for a yard sale permit is **$10.00.**

Raffle Permits

Although Massachusetts General Laws prohibit most forms of gambling in the Commonwealth, an exception under its implementing regulations, 940 CMR 12, allow for some nonprofit organizations to be permitted to hold certain gaming activities through raffles and bazaars in order to fundraise. A nonprofit organization which can show it has been operating in the Town of Easton for two or more years and has a charitable or civic purpose may apply for a raffle permit. The raffle permit fee in the Town of Easton is **$15, or $10 for a renewal**.

The Town Clerk's Office embraces its role as the gateway where citizens seek information and assistance on all aspects of local and state government.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle M. Sicard, MMC / CMMC
Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION RESULTS
APRIL 24, 2021

The following is a tabulation of voters for all six precincts at this election.
The Poll hours were open from **10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Registered Voters: **17,114**

Total Votes Cast: **488**

Percentage of Registered Voters who Voted: **2.85%**

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	Per Precinct counts	Election Day in person	Absentee	Early voted by Mail
Precinct 1:	65	59	0	6
Precinct 2:	124	103	4	17
Precinct 3:	61	51	1	9
Precinct 4:	101	81	1	19
Precinct 5:	70	54	2	14
Precinct 6:	67	56	0	11
TOTAL	488	404	8	76

82.8% % Voted on Election day
1.6% % voted absentee
15.6% % voted early by mail

Absentee Ballots	# ballots requested & sent	# returned & Cast	REQUESTED & NOT RETURNED - VOTED IN PERSON	Early Mail In Ballots	# ballots requested & sent	# returned & Cast
P1	0	0	0	P1	6	6
P2	5	4	0	P2	21	17
P3	1	1	0	P3	14	9
P4	3	1	0	P4	25	19
P5	2	2	1	P5	17	14
P6	0	0	1	P6	16	11
TOTAL	11	8	2	TOTAL	99	76

72.7% % absentee requested vs returned and cast
76.8% % early vote by mail requested vs returned and cast

A True Record Attest:

Danielle M. Sicard, Town Clerk

Select Board - vote for 2

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	11	21	17	17	19	23	108
Jennifer Stacy	53	106	49	91	56	55	**410**
James A Stebbins	59	111	54	89	57	52	**422**
Write Ins	7	10	2	5	8	4	36
	130	248	122	202	140	134	**976**

Moderator

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	8	14	3	16	10	10	61
Kate E Welch	57	110	58	84	57	56	**422**
Write Ins	0	0	0	1	3	1	5
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

Board of Assessors

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	16	22	5	16	14	13	86
Scott J Timulty	49	102	56	85	56	53	**401**
Write Ins	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

Board of Health

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	13	18	7	9	17	13	77
Aria L Zayas	52	106	54	92	53	54	**411**
Write Ins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

School Committee

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	13	13	5	13	13	15	72
Jacqueline A Weisman	52	110	56	88	56	51	**413**
Write Ins	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

Finance Committee (3 yrs) - vote for 3

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	51	62	25	44	58	49	289
Michael C DiPietro	48	104	54	90	49	46	**391**
Timothy J Vamosi	48	100	52	84	49	46	**379**
Kelly Ann Lamb	48	105	52	80	49	54	**388**
Write Ins	0	1	0	5	5	6	17
	195	372	183	303	210	201	**1464**

Finance Committee (1 yr)

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	13	14	5	7	14	11	64
Sherraine Diaz	52	109	56	93	55	55	**420**
Write Ins	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

Housing Authority

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	
Blanks	14	20	6	19	16	8	83
Pamela M Widdop	51	104	55	82	54	58	**404**
Write Ins	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	65	124	61	101	70	67	**488**

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT AND RESULTS
May 17, 2021

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Ames Sports Complex, Stonehill College, 320 Washington Street in said Easton on Monday, the 17th day of May, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

The Moderator congratulated all of the new elected members and thanked them for their service. The Moderator reviewed some town meeting rules & procedures and noted that the glossary of terms is located at the back of the warrant. She led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A quorum of registered voters of the Town of Easton being present and the proper return of the warrant being met, Town Moderator Kate Welch called the May 17, 2021 Annual Town Meeting, held in the Ames Sports Complex, Stonehill College, 320 Washington Street, to order at 7:22 PM.

ARTICLE 1. ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORTS

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Selectmen

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that the Town vote to accept the reports of the Select Board, Town Administrator, Assessors, Board of Health, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, School Committee, Town Accountant, Director of Public Works, and other Departments, Boards and Committees of the Town.

Explanation: This is an annual vote to accept the Town Report.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2. SPENDING LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the total expenditures for the following revolving funds pursuant to G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved.

FUND	Approved Total Expenditures
Conservation Commission Filing Fees	$50,000
Planning Board Fees	$50,000
Town Clerk Records	$20,000
Recreation	$300,000
Recreation Field Maintenance	$50,000
Board of Health vaccinations	$10,000
Board of Health Betterment Fees	$5,000
Agricultural Commission	$25,000
ZBA Revolving	$10,000
DPW Road Maintenance Fund	$25,000
DPW Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund	$50,000
Police Cruiser Detail Fees	$25,000
Fire/EMS Vehicle and Equipment Revolving Fund	$50,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Motion: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that the Town vote to authorize the total expenditures for the revolving funds printed in the warrant under Article 2, pursuant to G.L. c. 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 to be expended in accordance with the bylaws heretofore approved.

Explanation: This article sets the annual spending limits for all revolving funds established pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, section 53E and 1/2.

Actual expenditures cannot exceed the balance in the fund even if the expenditures are less than the established limits.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as follows:

Select Board, each member	$1,800
Board of Health, each member	$1,000
Board of Assessors, each member	$1,800
Moderator	$ 100

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Motion: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that the Town vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elected officers of the Town, as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as printed in the warrant.

Explanation: This is an annual article, required by statute, to set the salary levels for all compensated elected officials.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4. PAYMENT OF BILL(S) FROM A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved to dismiss Article 4.

Explanation: There are no prior year bills to be paid at this time.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY FOR DISMISSAL*

DECLARED DISMISSED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5. SUPPLEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGETS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to supplement fiscal year 2021 budgets, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Motion: Select Board Member Barger moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $44,000 to supplement the fiscal year 2021 Sewer Enterprise budget and that to meet this appropriation, $44,000 shall be transferred from Sewer Surplus.

Explanation: The Sewer Enterprise Fund will require supplemental funding to replace one of two wastewater treatment plant membranes at the North Easton Village facility.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6. TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer a sum of money into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established in accordance with §20 of MGL Chapter 32B, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Motion: Select Board Member Barger moved that the Town vote to transfer the sum of $25,000 into the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established in accordance with §20 of MGL Chapter 32B and that to meet this appropriation, $25,000 shall be transferred from the fiscal year 2021 Employee Benefits and Insurance budget.

Explanation: This article sets aside additional funds toward retiree health insurance by making a transfer into the Town's OPEB Trust Fund.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7. FY 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to defray the Town charges for the ensuing fiscal year including the salaries of the several elected and appointed officers of the Town, including cost items for collective bargaining agreements, and make appropriations for the same as listed below, or take any other action relative thereto.

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	AMOUNT
01.120	SELECT BOARD	$ 471,872
01.131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000
01.132	RESERVE FUND	100,000
01.135	ACCOUNTANT	258,652
01.140	ASSESSORS	290,655
01.145	TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER	368,351
01.150	TOWN COUNSEL	170,000
01.155	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	247,360
01.160	TOWN CLERK	296,298
01.175	PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	304,357
01.210	POLICE	4,617,168
01.211	PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH	300,000
01.220	FIRE AND RESCUE	5,124,275
01.240	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	286,474
01.310	REGIONAL & COUNTY SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS	1,376,019
01.400	DPW ADMINISTRATION	3,534,777
01.500	HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES	935,924
01.610	LIBRARY	568,685
01.700	MATURING DEBT & INTEREST	5,802,461
01.910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	15,821,768
01.920	OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	105,600
01.300	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	43,917,645
60.440	SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	885,359
61.450	WATER DIVISION ENTERPRISE	2,605,403
62.430	SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING ENTERPRISE	1,588,000
63.120	P.E.G. ACCESS & CABLE RELATED FEES ENTERPRISE	700,000
	TOTAL FY 2022 BUDGET	**$ 90,679,103**

Submitted by Town Administrator

Motion: Select Board Member Barger moved that the town vote to appropriate the sum of $90,679,103 of which $83,061,519 shall be raised from taxation, $813,741 shall be transferred from free cash, $176,685 shall be transferred from septic betterments receipts reserved for appropriation, $236,843 shall be transferred from the stabilization fund, $3,216,956 shall be transferred from water enterprise receipts, $735,359 shall be transferred from sewer enterprise

receipts, $150,000 shall be transferred from sewer surplus, $1,588,000 shall be transferred from solid waste and recycling enterprise receipts and $700,000 shall be transferred from cable franchise and related revenue enterprise receipts, all to meet the Town charges, including the salaries of several elected and appointed officers of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as printed in the Warrant under Article 7.

Explanation: This is the annual operating budget for the Town. The Town Administrator will make a presentation at town meeting regarding this proposal.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8. SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $1,000,000 for the purpose of financing the following water pollution facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Health

Motion: Select Board Member Barger moved that $1,000,000 be appropriated for the purpose of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow $1,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. c.111, s.127B ½ and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that project and financing costs shall be repaid by the property owners, in accordance with those agreements, but such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the Select Board or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Explanation: If approved, this will allow the Town to avail itself of funds available through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust at low interest which will then be used to provide loans to residents for the express purpose of upgrading failed septic systems *which are no longer protecting the public health. Upgrading includes the replacement of an existing system or the connecting to a sewer. The funds will be offered as betterment loans which will be paid back with interest over a period of time, not to exceed 20 years. Betterments appear as additional charges on the real estate tax bill.*

The Board of Health began accepting applications for this program in January of 2012. Through this program the Town has provided 3.4 million dollars in loans to date. This has resulted in 131 system upgrades with an additional 11 projects approved and awaiting completion. The approval of these additional funds will allow for the continuation of this program.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9. RESCIND PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to rescind $130,157 from the following borrowing authorizations:

Article Number	Town Meeting Date	Purpose	Original Authorization	Authorization to be Rescinded
11	11/17/2014	ESCO Project	$3,184,157.00	$ 4,157.00
19	5/15/2017	DPW - Bucket Truck	210,000.00	9,000.00
9	5/21/2018	DPW – Emergency Generator Replacement	75,000.00	10,000.00
9	5/21/2018	DPW/Highway – Replace Vehicle #22 (1999 Chevy C70) w/35K GVW Hooklift	210,000.00	7,000.00
15	5/20/2019	School – Replace EPDM Section of Richardson Olmsted School Roof	600,000.00	100,000.00
		Total		$130,157.00

said authorizations are no longer needed as the purposes have been met and the projects have been completed, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

Motion: Select Board Member Lamb moved that Town vote to rescind $130,157 of the borrowing previously authorized as printed in Article 9 of the warrant.

Explanation: The amounts to be rescinded were not borrowed. This is a "housekeeping" article to remove the unused authorizations which would otherwise remain on the books indefinitely.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 10. FY 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town for fiscal year 2022 or take any other action relative thereto.

GENERAL	
Fire/EMS – Replace Engine 14	$ 750,000
Fire/EMS – Utility Vehicle with Radios	50,000
Police – Replace Animal Control Vehicle	47,000
School – Fitness Center Leak Repair	295,000
School – Entrance Security Improvements	50,000
DPW – Facility Parking Lot Resurfacing	200,000
DPW – Replace 1988 F350 with F550 Hooklift	128,000
DPW – Replace 2005 Holder with Sidewalk Tractor	185,000
DPW – Loader	180,000
DPW – Replace 1970 Forklift	30,000
DPW – Municipal Facilities Capital Improvements	100,000
Inspectional Services – Replace 2008 Inspection Vehicle	31,911
Subtotal	$ 2,046,911
ENTERPRISE	
Water – Red Mill Rd Water Treatment Plant for Wells 3, 5 and 7	15,400,000
Water – PFAS Treatment Facilities	9,170,000
Water – Water Main Replacement	1,500,000
Water – Replace Utility Vehicle 121	54,000
Water – Utility Vehicle 134	54,000
Sewer – Wastewater Treatment Plant Membrane Replacement	44,000
Subtotal	$26,222,000
TOTAL GENERAL AND ENTERPRISE	***$28,268,911***

Submitted by Town Administrator

Motion: Select Board Member Lamb moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $28,268,911 for the purpose of meeting the capital budget needs of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as listed in the warrant under Article 10, and that to meet this appropriation, $108,911 shall be transferred from free cash, $345,000 shall be transferred from surplus funds voted pursuant to Article 4 of the November 13, 2017 Special Town Meeting, $16,425 shall be transferred from surplus funds voted pursuant to Article 15 of the May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting, $108,000 shall be transferred from water surplus, $27,575 shall be transferred from sewer surplus and that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow $27,663,000 for the replacement of Engine 14, utility vehicle with radios, facility parking lot resurfacing, F550 Hooklift,

sidewalk tractor, loader, municipal facilities capital improvements, water treatment plant, PFAS treatment facilities and water main replacement under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44 or any other enabling authority, provided that in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied, and to authorize the Select Board to do or take all actions necessary to carry out these projects on behalf of or in the name of the Town.

Explanation: This is the annual capital budget for the Town. Funding sources are long term borrowing and available funds.2/3 Majority vote is required for borrowing.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENT OF CODE TO REFLECT CHANGE IN EASTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 152 of the Code of the Town of Easton as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:
Subsection C of 152-5. Commission powers and duties, which currently reads:

> C. The Commission after a public hearing duly posted and advertised at least 14 days in advance in a conspicuous place in Town Hall and in a newspaper of general circulation, may adopt and from time to time amend guidelines which set forth the designs for certain exterior architectural features which are, in general, suitable for the issuance of a Certificate. No such design guidelines shall limit the right of an applicant for a Certificate to present other designs to the Commission for approval.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

> C. The Commission after a public hearing duly posted and advertised at least 14 days in advance in a conspicuous place in Town Hall, may adopt and from time to time amend guidelines which set forth the designs for certain exterior architectural features which are, in general, suitable for the issuance of a Certificate. No such design guidelines shall limit the right of an applicant for a Certificate to present other designs to the Commission for approval.

And

Subsection D of 152-7. Procedures for review of applications, which currently reads:

> D. If the Commission determines that such application involves any exterior architectural feature subject to review under this chapter, it shall hold a public hearing on the application, except as may otherwise be provided in this chapter. The Commission shall hold such a public hearing within 30

days from the date of the filing of the application. At least 14 days before said public hearing, public notice shall be given by posting in a conspicuous place in Town Hall and in a newspaper of general circulation in Easton. Such notice shall identify the time, place and purpose of the public hearing. Concurrently, a copy of said public notice shall be mailed to the applicant, to the owners of all adjoining properties and of other properties deemed by the Commission to be materially affected thereby, all as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, to the Planning Board, to any person filing a written request for notice of hearings, such request to be renewed yearly in December, and to such other persons as the Commission shall deem entitled to notice.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

D. If the Commission determines that such application involves any exterior architectural feature subject to review under this chapter, it shall hold a public hearing on the application, except as may otherwise be provided in this chapter. The Commission shall hold such a public hearing within 30 days from the date of the filing of the application. At least 14 days before said public hearing, public notice shall be given by posting in a conspicuous place in Town Hall. Such notice shall identify the time, place and purpose of the public hearing. Concurrently, a copy of said public notice shall be mailed to the applicant, to the owners of all adjoining properties and of other properties deemed by the Commission to be materially affected thereby, all as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, to the Planning Board, to any person filing a written request for notice of hearings, such request to be renewed yearly in December, and to such other persons as the Commission shall deem entitled to notice.

And

Section 152-10. Categorical Approval, which currently reads:

The Commission may determine from time to time after a public hearing, duly advertised and posted at least 14 days in advance in a conspicuous place in Town Offices and in a newspaper of general circulation in Easton, that certain categories of Exterior Architectural Features, Structures or Buildings under certain conditions may be Constructed or Altered without review by the Commission without causing substantial derogation from the intent and purpose of this chapter.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

The Commission may determine from time to time after a public hearing, duly advertised and posted at least 14 days in advance in a conspicuous place in Town Offices, that certain categories of Exterior Architectural Features, Structures or Buildings under certain conditions may be Constructed or Altered without review by the Commission without causing substantial derogation from the intent and purpose of this chapter.

Submitted by the Easton Historical Commission

Motion: Select Board Member Lamb moved to amend Chapter 152 of the Code of the Town of Easton as printed in Article 11 of the warrant.

Explanation: Eliminating the newspaper requirement for public hearings better aligns Easton's bylaw with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40C enabling legislation, streamlines the application and approvals process, and reduces applicants' permitting expenses.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 12. APPROVAL OF SEWER TREATMENT AGREEMENT WITH QUESET COMMONS

To see if the Town will approve a long-term operations and maintenance agreement with Queset Commons for the treatment wastewater collected by the Queset Sewer System in accordance with the Queset Development Agreement, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Sewer Commissioners

Motion: Select Board member Lamb moved that the Town vote to approve a thirty-year operations and maintenance agreement with Queset Commons for the treatment of wastewater collected by the Queset Sewer System in accordance with the Queset Development Agreement.

Explanation: *In 2008, Town Meeting adopted the Queset Smart Growth District at which Queset Commons has been developing for many years. As part of that approval, the Town executed a Development Agreement which purchased, via Town Meeting-approved funds, 50,000 gallons of daily treatment capacity from Queset Commons for the Town of Easton Queset Sewer District. Construction of the district completed in 2019, and wastewater has been flowing to the Queset Commons treatment plant in accordance with that Development Agreement and an operations agreement executed by the Select Board / Sewer Commission with the Developer. Under MGL, Select Board agreements for services of this type cannot exceed a three-year term without a vote of Town Meeting. Given the long-term nature of this service agreement, it is most appropriate for the term to be extended to thirty years by vote of Town Meeting.*

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 13: GENERAL STORMWATER BYLAW FOR MS4 COMPLIANCE

To see if the Town will adopt a General Stormwater Bylaw as required by the Town of Easton 2016 Municipal Small Separate Sewer System Permit (Easton MS4 Permit) issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency for the Town to operate its municipal stormwater system, and to authorize the Town Clerk to insert Chapter and Section numbers, as necessary for inclusion in the Easton Code, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Stormwater bylaw reads as follows.

All development and redevelopment that results in a minimum of 40,000 square feet of land disturbance shall address any stormwater runoff during and after construction in accordance with the Town of Easton 2016 Municipal Small Separate Sewer System Permit (Easton MS4 Permit), as outlined in part 2.3.6 of the Easton MS4 Permit, and the MassDEP Stormwater Handbook as either may be amended. The following standards shall be met to protect the stormwater infrastructure in public ways and wetland resource areas. (All terms are defined in the MassDEP Stormwater Handbook.) Failure to comply with these standards may result in enforcement action and fines up to $300 per violation per day.

1. The area of land disturbance shall include sites less than 40,000 square feet if the site is part of a larger common plan of development or redevelopment which disturbs 40,000 square feet or greater.

2. Low Impact Development (LID) site planning and design strategies must be implemented *unless infeasible* in order to reduce the discharge of stormwater from development sites.

3. Stormwater management systems design shall be consistent with, or more stringent than, the requirements of the 2008 Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook.

4. Stormwater management systems on new development shall be designed to meet an average annual pollutant removal equivalent to 90% of the average annual load of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) related to the total post-construction impervious area on the site *and* 60% of the average annual load of Total Phosphorus (TP) related to the total post-construction impervious surface area on the site. Average annual pollutant removal requirements in the Easton MS4 Permit, section 2.3.6.a.ii.3, are achieved through one of the following methods:

   1. installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that meet the pollutant removal percentages based on calculations developed consistent with EPA Region 1's BMP Accounting and Tracking Tool (2016) or other BMP performance evaluation tool provided by EPA Region 1, where available. If EPA Region 1 tools do not address the planned or installed BMP performance, then any federally or State-approved BMP design guidance or performance standards (e.g., the MassDEP Stormwater Handbooks and design guidance manuals) may be used to calculate BMP performance; or

   2. retaining the volume of runoff equivalent to, or greater than, one (1.0) inch multiplied by the total post-construction impervious surface area on the new development site; or

   3. meeting a combination of retention and treatment that achieves the above standards; or

4. utilizing offsite mitigation that meets the above standards within the same USGS HUC12 (watershed area) as the new development site.

5. Stormwater management systems on redevelopment sites shall be designed to meet an average annual pollutant removal equivalent to 80% of the average annual postconstruction load of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) related to the total post-construction impervious area on the site AND 50% of the average annual load of Total Phosphorus (TP) related to the total post-construction impervious surface area on the site. Average annual pollutant removal requirements in Easton MS4 Permit section 2.3.6.a.ii.4 are achieved through one of the following methods:

1. installing BMPs that meet the pollutant removal percentages based on calculations developed consistent with EPA Region 1's BMP Accounting and Tracking Tool (2016) or other BMP performance evaluation tool provided by EPA Region 1, where available. If EPA Region 1 tools do not address the planned or installed BMP performance, then any federally or State-approved BMP design guidance or performance standards (e.g., State stormwater handbooks and design guidance manuals) may be used to calculate BMP performance; or

2. retaining the volume of runoff equivalent to, or greater than, 0.8 inch multiplied by the total post-construction impervious surface area on the redeveloped site; or

3. meeting a combination of retention and treatment that achieves the above standards; or

4. utilizing offsite mitigation that meets the above standards within the same USGS HUC12 (watershed area) as the redevelopment site.

6. Redevelopment activities that are exclusively limited to maintenance and improvement of existing roadways, (including widening less than a single lane, adding shoulders, correcting substandard intersections, improving existing drainage systems, and repaving projects) shall improve existing conditions unless infeasible and are exempt from Easton MS4 permit part 2.3.6.a.ii.4. Roadway widening or improvements that increase the amount of impervious area on the redevelopment site by greater than or equal to a single lane width shall meet the requirements of Easton MS4 Permit part 2.3.6.a.ii.4.

Submitted by Planning & Economic Development Department

Motion: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote to adopt a General Stormwater Bylaw as required by the Town of Easton 2016 Municipal Small Separate Sewer System Permit (Easton MS4 Permit) issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency for the Town to operate its municipal stormwater system, as printed in the warrant under Article 13, and to authorize the Town Clerk to insert Chapter and Section numbers, as necessary for inclusion in the Easton Code.

Explanation: This article is required for compliance with the Town's MS4 Stormwater Permit. This bylaw addresses two main issues. First, it requires stormwater systems on development (and redevelopment) sites that do not trigger review by Planning and Zoning Board or Conservation Commission. Second, the Planning and Zoning Board or Conservation Commission both rely on the MassDEP Stormwater Handbook for design and maintenance of stormwater systems. The MassDEP is in the process of revising its Handbook to be consistent with the MS4 standards, but that is not expected before the MS4 deadline of June 2021.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 14. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES NOT TO BE CONSUMED ON THE PREMISES IN THE TOWN OF EASTON

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, in their obligation as the local licensing authority, to file with the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a petition to adopt special legislation in a form suitable to achieve the purpose of increasing the number of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Town of Easton, in a form substantially as follows:

AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE TOWN OF EASTON

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1.

(a) Whereas, the Town of Easton has determined that the promotion of economic development in the Five Corners Development District as approved by Easton Annual Town Meeting on May 20, 2019 is of critical importance to the revitalization of said district and the Town. The development of a balanced mix of commercial and residential uses is vital to this district. The addition of an establishment to purchase, beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages will be beneficial to the said district.

(b) Accordingly, per the terms hereof, the licensing authority of the Town of Easton, notwithstanding the maximum number of licenses granted pursuant to section 17 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, may grant 1 additional license above said maximum amount for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises, under section 15 of said Chapter 138.

(c) Said license shall only be granted to an establishment located in the Five Corners Development District as defined by the Five Corners District Improvement Financing Master Plan, as approved on May 20, 2019, as amended from time to time. A license issued pursuant to this act shall be subject to Chapter 138, excepting only section 17.

(d) The licensing authority of the Town of Easton shall not approve the transfer of a license granted under this section to any other person, partnership, corporation, LLC, organization, or any other entity: (i) for a period of 3 years from the date of original issuance or 3 years from the date of enactment of this legislation, whichever is later; and (ii) to a location outside of the Five Corners Development District. A license issued pursuant to the authority of this act shall be clearly marked Five Corners Development District License Only and nontransferable on the face of the license.

(e) If a license granted under this section is revoked, surrendered, or should any transfer of
the license occur in violation of this act, it shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights and privileges pertaining thereto, to the licensing authority of the Town of Easton. The licensing authority may then grant the license to a new applicant only at a location within the Five Corners Development District under the same conditions as specified in this act; provided further that no license shall be re-issued for use in the same location within 6 months from the date that the prior license was revoked or terminated, unless the applicant files a letter in writing from the Department of Revenue with the licensing authority of the Town of Easton indicating that the license at issue is in good standing with the Department of Revenue and that all applicable taxes, fees, and contributions have been paid.

(f) This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Submitted by Town Administrator

Motion: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board, in their obligation as the local licensing authority, to file with the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a petition to adopt special legislation in a form suitable to achieve the purpose of increasing the number of licenses for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Town of Easton, in a form substantially as printed in the warrant under Article 14, with the Town Administrator being authorized to approve any insubstantial changes required by the General Court

Explanation: This article is requesting authorization to allow the Select Board, in their capacity as Easton's local licensing authority, to grant one (1) additional license above the allowed maximum as stated in M.G.L. Chapter 138 Section 17, for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 138 Section 15, for the purpose of promoting economic development in the Five Corners Development District as described above and in the Town of Easton as a whole.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 15. REPORT AND FY 2022 BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation Budget and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation Projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, or take any other action relative thereto.

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2022 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION BUDGET

Purpose	Amount
Appropriations:	
Administrative Expenses	$ 88,750
Debt Service	$505,888
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	$177,500
Reserves:	
Historic Resources	$177,500
Annual Budgeted Reserve	$825,362

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

Motion: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote to appropriate or reserve from Community Preservation Fund annual revenues, the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee for administrative expenses, community preservation projects, the payment of debt service and other expenses in fiscal year 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation, all as printed in the warrant.

Explanation: This article proposes the fiscal year 2022 budget for the Community Preservation Committee. Amounts to be funded shall be considered separate appropriations.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 16. CPA FUNDING – HIGH SCHOOL PRACTICE FIELD PERIMETER FENCE AND WALKING PATH CONSTRUCTION

To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to appropriate up to $35,000 from available Community Preservation Funds for the purpose of completing construction of the perimeter fencing and walking path around the recently created practice field the Oliver Ames High School located at 100 Lothrop Street and listed on Assessors Map 26U as Lot 7, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Community Preservation Committee

Motion: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote in accordance with the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee to

appropriate the sum of $35,000 from Unreserved Community Preservation Fund Balance for the purpose of completing construction of the perimeter fencing and walking path around the recently created practice field at Oliver Ames High School located at 100 Lothrop Street and listed on Assessors Map 26U as Lot 7.

Explanation: *This article would provide $35,000 in funding to cover costs associated with construction of the perimeter fencing and walking path around the recently constructed practice field at Oliver Ames High School.*

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 17. ZONING AMENDMENT – QUESET COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - C

To see if the Town of Easton will vote pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Easton, adopted at Town Meeting, March 27, 1973 and amended through November 30, 2020, as printed in the supplement titled **ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 & 20 ZONING AMENDMENTS §235**.

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board

ARTICLE 17 AS WRITTEN IN THE SUPPLEMENT:

Deletions to the existing Zoning Code are shown as strike-through, additions to the existing Zoning Code are shown in italics. Only the sections of the Zoning Code affected by the proposed amendment are shown; with all other sections of the Zoning Code remaining unchanged.

ARTICLE 17: QUESET COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - C

Purpose: to attract mixed use development contributing to a vibrant commercial district comprising residential and commercial uses that increase commercial activity and diverse housing options.

Summary of changes:

Change requirement for commercial use within the Queset Commercial District-C (QCD-C) from 2/3 to 1/3 (Appendix A-2, footnote 4);

Include the ability to allow additional residential units in QCD-C by Special Permit (Appendix A-2 footnote 1):

Appendix A-2 Table of Use Regulations, Special Zoning Districts

NOTE: When depicted, the numeric superscript next to a code refers to the appropriate ~~end~~ *foot*note~~. which can be found on the last page of this document~~ (e.g., PZB^2).

PRINCIPAL USES

A. ***Residential Uses***	QCD A	QCD B	QCD C	VBD	FVD Eastman	FVD Depot	FVD Bus	FVD Res
1. Single Family Dwelling	N	N	N	ZBA	N	N	Y	Y
2. One 2 family or one duplex dwelling	N	Y	N	PZB	N	N	PZB	PZB
3. Multifamily Dwelling (See §235-40)	N	N	Y[1]	N	PZB[2]	PZB[2]	PZB	PZB with Historic Preservation[3]
4. Conversion of existing dwelling to two units	N	Y	N	PZB	N	N	PZB	PZB
5. Mixed Use	PZB[4]	PZB[4]	PZB[1,4]	PZB[5]	PZB[6]	PZB[6]	PZB[6]	N

Queset Commercial District Notes

(1) Multi-family units may be allowed in Queset Commercial District C with the following conditions:
The multi-family units must be part of a mixed-use project
The maximum number of dwelling units permitted in the district shall be no more than four units per developable acre
The maximum number of bedrooms per unit shall be no more than three
A bonus allowing up to eight rental dwelling units per acre is provided where 25% of such units shall be restricted to occupancy by households earning at or below 80% of the area median income. *The Planning Board may grant a Special Permit for additional units.* The project must be eligible for approval as a Local Action Unit (LAU) through the Local Initiative Program (LIP) or otherwise included in the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI)
The maximum number of bedrooms per developable acre shall not exceed eight, except that the maximum number of bedrooms shall be no more than 16 per developable acre where the affordability density bonus (item (d) above) is met

Detailed design plans depicting elevations of the proposed dwelling units shall be submitted with the Application to the Planning and Zoning Board for approval

(4) Provided that in the Queset Commercial District, mixed-use development shall be permitted only if at least ~~two~~ *one* third~~s~~ (~~2~~*1*/3) of the total gross floor area in the project is used for Office, Retail or Restaurant Uses permitted under this Appendix A-2 Table of Use Regulations. For Projects approved and developed in phases, throughout each phase of the project, the required two-to-one ratio of Office, Retail or Restaurant uses to residential use shall be adhered to.

Motion: Select Board Member Stacy moved that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Queset Commercial District - C as printed in the warrant and as described in the corresponding language contained in the Supplement attached thereto.

Explanation: The proposed amendment modifies the minimum amount of commercial space required as part of mixed-used development in the Queset Commercial District C in response to evolving trends in the commercial development market and provides the Planning and Zoning Board the ability to approve additional residential units by Special Permit, with the intent to attract mixed use development contributing to a vibrant commercial district comprising residential and commercial uses that increase commercial activity, economic opportunity and increases the diversity of housing options in Easton consistent with the goals of the Envision Easton Master Plan and Queset Commercial District Economic Development Strategic Plan. The printed warrant states a 2/3rds majority is necessary for this article but that is a typo – this vote is a simple majority.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Planning Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

The Planning & Zoning Board met on April 12, 2021 and voted 4-1 in favor to recommend Article Number 17.

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 18. APPENDIX B DIMENSIONAL AND DENSITY REGULATIONS

To see if the Town of Easton will vote pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Easton, adopted at Town Meeting, March 27, 1973 and amended through November 30, 2020, as printed in the supplement titled **ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 & 20 ZONING AMENDMENTS §235**.

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board

ARTICLE 18 AS WRITTEN IN THE SUPPLEMENT:

Deletions to the existing Zoning Code are shown as strike-through, additions to the existing Zoning Code are shown in italics. Only the sections of the Zoning Code affected by the proposed amendment are shown; with all other sections of the Zoning Code remaining unchanged.

Article 18: Appendix B Dimensional and Density Regulations

Summary of changes:

Addition of dimensional and density regulations for the Furnace Village Districts approved at Special Town Meeting, November 30, 2020;

Addition of specific dimensional and density regulations for three uses:

- Apartments
- Motel
- FV-Major Project, as defined in the Furnace Village Zoning Districts Zoning approved at Special Town Meeting, November 30, 2020

Appendix B Dimensional and Density Regulations

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Size Sq. Ft.	Continuous Minimum Lot Frontage Ft.(2)	Minimum Yard Depth in Ft(3)			Minimum Lot Depth Ft.	Maximum Building Height Ft.(3)	Maximum % of Lot Coverage by Structure	Minimum Open Space % Lot Area(17)	Maximum # of Stories Above Grade(5)	Building Placement % Frontage Minimum	Building Placement % Frontage Maximum
			Front(10)	Rear	Side							
FV-Eastman (21)	*15,000*	*100*	*25*	*20*	*15*	*1:3(22)*	*37*	--		*3*	*60%*	*N.A.*
FV-Depot(21)	*15,000*	*100*	*25*	*20*	*15*	*1:3(22)*	*37*	--		*3*	*60%*	*N.A.*
FV-Business(21)	*15,000*	*100*	*25*	*20*	*15*	*1:3(22)*	*37*	--		*3*	*60%*	*N.A.*
FV-Residential(21)	*15,000*	*75'*	*25*	*40*	*15*	*n/a*	*25*	--		*3*	*N.A.*	*N.A.*

SPECIAL DIMENSIONAL AND DENSITY REGULATIONS

FOR COMMERCIAL OR MIXED-USE BUILDINGS IN FURNACE VILLAGE DISTRICT

Zoning District	Ground floor min/max	Upper story min	Minimum height	Build-to zone min/max		Min. façade buildout (Frontage Occupancy)	Maximum building length	Street-facing wall width (no offset)	Transparency (minimum)	
				Commercial building	Mixed-use building				Ground floor	Upper floors
FV-Eastman	*14' / 18'*	*10'*	*25'/ 2 stories*	*25' / 35'*	*30' / 35'*	*60%*	*150'*	*50*	*60%*	*20%*
FV-Depot	*14' / 18'*	*10'*	*25'/ 2 stories*	*25' / 35'*	*30' / 35'*	*60%*	*125'*		*60%*	*20%*

DIMENSIONAL AND DENSITY REGULATIONS TABLE FOR SPECIFIC USES (See Appendices A-1 and A-2 for where Use is allowed)

Use	Minimum Lot Size Sq. Ft.	Continuous Minimum Lot Frontage Ft.(2)	Minimum Yard Depth in Ft(3)			Minimum Lot Depth Ft.	Maximum Building Height Ft.(3)	Maximum % of Lot Coverage by Structure	Minimum Open Space % Lot Area(17)	Maximum # of Stories Above Grade(5)	Building Placement % Frontage Minimum	Building Placement % Frontage Maximum
			Front(10)	Rear	Side							
Apartments (6)	*60,000*	*250*	*75*	*40*	*25*	*160*	*40*	*25%*	*(per Zone)*	*3*	*(per Zone)*	*(per Zone)*
Motel	*60,000*	*250*	*75*	*50*	*50*	*160*	*35*	*25%*	*(per Zone)*	*3*	*(per Zone)*	*(per Zone)*
FV-Major Project(21)	*40,000(23)*	*150(23)*	*25*	*20*	*15*	*1:3(22)*	*45'(24,25)*	--	*20%(17)*	*4(24,25)*	*60%*	*N.A.*

(21) Subject to additional dimensional requirements of Section 253-51.2 D.(2) "Special Dimensional Regulations)

(22) Ratio of width to depth

(23) The Planning & Zoning Board may waive the minimum frontage requirement for two adjoining lots with shared access and cross and lateral access parking provided there is a Shared Access and Cross Parking Agreement between the owners of the lots, all in a form acceptable to the Planning & Zoning Board and approved by Town Counsel.

(24) For 4-story buildings, preference shall be given to buildings located on a corner lot or located behind buildings in the commercial frontage zone.

(25) Multifamily dwellings shall not exceed 3 stories and 37' in height.

Motion: Select Board member Stacy moved that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Appendix B Dimensional and Density Regulations, as

printed in the warrant and as described in the corresponding language contained in the Supplement attached thereto.

Explanation: This amendment codifies the Dimensional and Density Regulations for the Furnace Village District and Special Uses passed at Special Town Meeting on November 30, 2020. This was the last Article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant which, due to a loss of quorum at that point in Town Meeting, was not taken up for vote. This is a housekeeping item.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Planning Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

The Planning & Zoning Board met on April 12, 2021 and voted 5-0 in favor to recommend Article Number 18.

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 19. ZONING MAP CHANGE

To see if the Town of Easton will vote pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Easton, adopted at Town Meeting, March 27, 1973 and amended through November 30, 2020, as printed in the supplement titled **ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 & 20 ZONING AMENDMENTS §235**.

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board

ARTICLE 19 AS WRITTEN IN THE SUPPLEMENT:

Deletions to the existing Zoning Code are shown as strike-through, additions to the existing Zoning Code are shown in italics. Only the sections of the Zoning Code affected by the proposed amendment are shown; with all other sections of the Zoning Code remaining unchanged.

ARTICLE 19: ZONING MAP CHANGE – FURNACE VILLAGE DISTRICT - DEPOT

Summary of changes:

Addition of two contiguous parcels to the FVD Depot Street subdistrict, inadvertently omitted from previous amendment.

Change existing Zoning District from Business to FVD Depot Street Subdistrict

Map/Lot	Location	Lot Size	Book/Page
45U/6A	383 Bay Road	0.94 acre	25901/227
45U/9	497R Foundry Street	2.5 acres	14733/0282

Motion: Select Board Member Stacy moved that the Town amend the Zoning Map, as printed in the warrant and as described in the corresponding language contained in the Supplement attached thereto.

Explanation: This amendment adds two parcels that were intended to be included within the Furnace Village Districts – Depot subdistrict. These two parcels were inadvertently omitted in the amendment presented at Special Town Meeting in November, 2020.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Planning Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

The Planning & Zoning Board met on April 12, 2021 and voted 5-0 in favor to recommend Article Number 19.

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 20. ZONING AMENDMENT – ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

To see if the Town of Easton will vote pursuant to MGL, Chapter 40A, to amend sections of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Easton, adopted at Town Meeting, March 27, 1973 and amended through November 30, 2020, as printed in the supplement titled **ARTICLES 17, 18, 19 & 20 ZONING AMENDMENTS §235**.

Submitted by Planning and Zoning Board

ARTICLE 20 AS WRITTEN IN THE SUPPLEMENT:

Deletions to the existing Zoning Code are shown as strike-through, additions to the existing Zoning Code are shown in italics. Only the sections of the Zoning Code affected by the proposed amendment are shown; with all other sections of the Zoning Code remaining unchanged.

ARTICLE 20: ZONING AMENDMENTS - ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

Summary of changes:
Exclude shipping containers and semi-trailers as Storage Structures, provided that temporary Storage Structures may be allowed:

§ 235-18 Accessory structures.

A. Attached Garage. A garage or carport attached to any side of a dwelling and constructed as a part of the dwelling shall be considered as a part of the dwelling and shall meet all requirements for front, side, or rear yards, and height of structure which apply to the dwelling.

B. Storage Structure. A residential storage structure may be located to within five feet of a side or rear lot line, while a detached residential garage shall be located a minimum of 15 feet from a side yard and 20 feet from the rear lot line., *A Storage Structure within a Residential District will not be a semi-trailer, or, except for temporary storage units that may be allowed for up to twelve months, a shipping container.*

C. Certain Buildings. Tool sheds, garden sheds, storage sheds, garages, or other like buildings shall be allowed as accessory uses in the Residence Districts subject to the dimensional requirements in § 235-18.

Motion: Select Board Member Stacy moved that the Town amend the Zoning Bylaws pertaining to Accessory Structures, as printed in the warrant and as described in the corresponding language contained in the Supplement attached thereto.

Explanation: This amendment excludes the use of shipping containers, other than on a limited temporary basis, and semi-trailer units for storage in the Residential District.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Selectmen Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Planning Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

The Planning & Zoning Board met on April 12, 2021 and voted 5-0 in favor to recommend Article Number 20.

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

The Annual Town Meeting was declared Adjourned at 8:59 PM.

ATTEST:

Danielle M. Sicard
Town Clerk

TOWN OF EASTON
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
WARRANT AND RESULTS
November 8, 2021

BRISTOL, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Easton in the County of Bristol:
GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Easton qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs to meet in the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium in said Easton on Monday, the 8th day of November, next, at 7:00 P.M., then and there to act upon the following articles:

The Moderator reviewed some town meeting rules & procedures and noted that the glossary of terms is located at the back of the warrant. She led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A quorum of registered voters of the Town of Easton being present and the proper return of the warrant being met, Town Moderator Kate Welch called the November 8, 2021 Special Town Meeting, held in the Auditorium of Oliver Ames High School, to order at 7:43 PM.

ARTICLE 1. TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed into the Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $1,175,000 to be placed into the Stabilization Fund.

Explanation: This article moves $1,175,000 of available free cash to the stabilization fund in accordance with the Town's financial management guidelines and the ongoing goal to build up reserves. Once transferred, the balance of the stabilization fund will be $4,737,792.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*

Select Board Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2. TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be placed into the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that Town vote to appropriate by transfer from available Medicaid cost recovery funds the sum of $117,283 to be placed into the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Explanation: This article moves available one-time revenues to the capital stabilization fund for future use, subject to town meeting appropriation. Once transferred, the balance of the capital stabilization fund will be $1,889,757.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3. TRANSFER TO SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of $200,000 to be placed into the Special Education Reserve Fund established pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 13E of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by School Committee

MOTION: Select Board Member Barger moved that the Town vote to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $200,000 to be placed into the Special Education Reserve Fund.

Explanation: The Special Education Reserve Fund was established to set aside funds for future unanticipated or unbudgeted costs related to special education costs. The requested appropriation will replenish funds previously transferred out of the Reserve Fund at the June 22, 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Vote Required: *SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL INJURY LEAVE (INJURED ON DUTY) RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the 4th paragraph of M.G.L. c. 41, §111F and establish a special injury leave indemnity fund, and to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund said fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

MOTION: Select Board Member Barger moved that the Town vote to accept the provisions of the 4th paragraph of M.G.L. c. 41, §111F and establish a special injury leave indemnity fund, and to appropriate by transfer from free cash the sum of $100,000 to be placed into said fund.

Explanation: The Town self-insures for injured on duty medical coverage, however, payroll costs associated with long term injury absences for Police and Firefighters are typically borne out of existing payroll budgets for those departments. The amount of overtime necessitated for shift coverage resulting from an injury in the line of duty varies widely and is not an expense that can reasonably be anticipated and budgeted for during the routine budget cycle, and so this special reserve fund would provide flexibility for those departments to adequately fund injury-driven overtime. Funds placed into this account would be under the care of the Select Board and could only be disbursed for IOD related costs following a vote of the Board at a public meeting

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5. PAYMENT OF BILL(S) FROM A PRIOR FISCAL YEAR

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of bills incurred in a prior fiscal year, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Member Lamb moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $7,740 by transfer from water surplus to pay the cost of a bill incurred in the prior fiscal year.

Explanation: This prior year bill is for the replacement of PFAS containing firefighting foam which was funded by the Water Division as part of the department's PFAS mitigation program.

Vote Required:	*NINE-TENTHS*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6. AMEND FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to amend fiscal year 2022 departmental budgets, including cost items for collective bargaining agreements, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

MOTION: Select Board Member Lamb moved that the Town vote to amend fiscal year 2022 departmental budgets, including cost items for collective bargaining agreements by the following amounts which shall increase said budgets unless otherwise noted:

DEPARTMENT NAME	AMOUNT
ASSESSORS	$ 18,100
FIRE AND RESCUE	64,176
REGIONAL & COUNTY SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS	65,739
MATURING DEBT & INTEREST *(Decrease)*	(729,067)
WATER ENTERPRISE	18,525
NET DECREASE	$ 562,527

And to meet these amendments, the amount raised from taxation shall be decreased by $653,572, $8,344 shall be transferred from Septic Betterments Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, $64,176 shall be transferred from the FY2022 Employee Benefits and Insurance Budget, and $18,525 shall be transferred from Water Receipts.

Explanation: This article will adjust the Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget including revenues and expenditures. Adjustments for the assessing cover staffing transfers and training requirements, the fire department adjustment primarily funds a collective bargaining agreement reached since the Annual Town Meeting and is funded by existing collective bargaining reserves, regional and county school assessments increased mainly due to a change in the application of grant funds and net school spending requirements outside of the Town's control, maturing debt and interest will decrease mostly due to a reduction in the amount of exempt debt to be raised on the school project, and the water enterprise fund requires an adjustment for additional debt service.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7. SUPPLEMENT FY2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate by borrowing, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, a sum of money to supplement the capital budget needs of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as follows:

Police – Two Marked Vehicles	$ 117,800
IT - Annual Computer Hardware/Software Replacement	33,456
IT - Server Upgrade	36,464
School Dept - Computers/Technology	284,612
Fire/Police/DPW Facility Feasibility Study	500,000
Online Permitting System Upgrade	122,000
DPW - Replace 2006 F450 with F550 Hooklift	128,000
DPW - Replace 2003 Bobcat Loader	85,000
Fire Grant Matching Funds - SCBA Fill Station	6,364
Total	**$1,313,696**

or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

MOTION: Select Board Member Stacy moved that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of $1,313,696 to supplement the capital budget needs of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as printed in the warrant under Article 7 and that to meet this appropriation, $1,100,000 shall be transferred from free cash and $213,696 shall be transferred from overlay surplus.

Explanation: This article addresses additional capital needs for fiscal 2022 that were not able to be funded at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The Town Administrator and other department heads will make a brief presentation on the Fire/Police/DPW Facility Feasibility Study component of the budget.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8. FUND SICK AND VACATION BUYBACK AS REQUIRED BY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay the cost of accumulated vacation and sick-leave required to be paid by collective bargaining contract, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

MOTION: Select Board Member Stacy moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $18,580 to pay the cost of accumulated vacation and sick-leave required to be paid by collective bargaining contract.

Explanation: The Fire Department has a retirement forthcoming for an employee eligible for vacation and grandfathered into previous (but no longer existing) sick leave buy-back upon retirement.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES TO THE AMES TRUST FUNDS FOR THE TOWN OF EASTON HIGHWAY PERMANENT FUND AND SUPPORT OF SCHOOL FUND

To see if the Town will vote to place the Town of Easton Highway Permanent Fund, established by the Town at the Special Town Meeting of June 22, 1926, and the fund for the Support of School held by the Town of Easton in Trust under the will of the late Oliver Ames Jr., in the custody and care of Henry J. Ames and Kevin M. Kidd, with said trustees having the authority to invest and reinvest said funds, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote to appoint Henry J. Ames and Kevin M. Kidd as trustees to the Ames Trust Funds for the Town of Easton Highway Permanent Fund and Support of School Fund as described in the warrant.

Explanation: James S. Thomas, appointed a trustee by vote of Town Meeting on April 29, 1991, has resigned as trustee and this article would fill that vacancy and add a third trustee to care for and manage the funds along with continuing trustee David Ames Jr.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 10. RESCIND PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to rescind $230,000 of the borrowing authorized under Article 17 of the May 18, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, said borrowing having been authorized for the purpose of replacing Well #4, of which the remaining authorization is no longer needed as the project is complete, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Select Board

MOTION: Select Board Member Stebbins moved that the Town vote to rescind $230,000 of the borrowing authorized under Article 17 of the May 18, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, as printed in the warrant under Article 10.

Explanation: This "housekeeping" article will remove the remaining authorization that would otherwise remain on the books indefinitely.

Vote Required:	*SIMPLE MAJORITY*

Select Board Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY MAJORITY BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 11. EASEMENT FOR NATIONAL GRID INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL UTILITIES FOR THE BLANCHE A. AMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – SPOONER STREET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement for the installation of underground electrical utilities in a property known and numbered as 50 Spooner Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Town Administrator

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to grant an easement for the installation of underground electrical utilities in a property known and numbered as 50 Spooner Street, and further to authorize the Select Board to take any and all action necessary to effectuate this easement.

Explanation: This easement has been requested by National Grid for the installation of underground electrical service to the future Blanche A. Ames Elementary School, which is currently under construction. The property in question is town owned, and the easement is necessary to provide utilities to the building. A plan depicting the easement is on file with the Select Board's office.

Vote Required: *TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation: *RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 12. SEPTIC LOAN PROGRAM

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $1,000,000 for the purpose of financing the following water pollution facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust or otherwise, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by Board of Health

MOTION: Select Board Chairperson Fulginiti moved that $1,000,000 be appropriated for the purpose of financing the following water pollution abatement facility projects: repair, replacement and/or upgrade of septic systems, pursuant to agreements with the Board of Health and residential property owners, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the

approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow $1,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. c.111, s.127B ½ and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that project and financing costs shall be repaid by the property owners, in accordance with those agreements, but such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the Select Board or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Explanation: If approved, this will allow the Town to avail itself of additional funds available through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust at low interest which will then be used to provide loans to residents for the express purpose of upgrading failed septic systems. Upgrading includes the replacement of an existing system or the connecting to a sewer. The funds will be offered as betterment loans which will be paid back with interest over a period of time, not to exceed 20 years. Betterments appear as additional charges on the real estate tax bill.

Since 2012 the Town has provided 3.4 million dollars in loans upgrading more than 140 systems to date. The approval of these additional funds will allow for the continuation of this program.

Vote Required:	*TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY*
Select Board Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*
Finance Committee Recommendation:	*RECOMMENDED*

DECLARED VOTED BY 2/3 BY THE MODERATOR

The Special Town Meeting was declared Adjourned at 8:10 PM.

ATTEST:

Danielle M. Sicard
Town Clerk

INDEX

Affordable Housing Trust, Report of ... 110
Agricultural Commission, Report of ... 150
Ames Free Library, Report of ... 131
Ames Trust Fund, Report of ... 139
Animal Control Officer, Report of ... 90
Animal Inspector, Report of ... 91
Annual Audit, Report of ... 67
Appeals Board, Report of ... 112
Assessors, Report of. ... 16
Audit Committee ... 66
Bristol County Mosquito Control Project, Report ... 142
Budget Sub-committee, Report of ... 65
Capital Planning Committee, Budget Recommendations ... 63
Collector/Treasurer, Report of ... 48
Commission on Disability, Report of ... 154
Community Preservation Act Committee, Report of ... 108
Conservation Commission, Report of ... 105
Council on Aging, Report of ... 119
Cultural Council, Report of. ... 144
Department of Health & Community Services, Report of ... 42
Department of Public Works, Administration, Report of ... 68
Department of Public Works, Water Division, Report of ... 75
Economic Development Council, Report of ... 103
Finance Committee, Report of ... 11
Fire and Rescue Department, Report of ... 78
Green Communities Committee, Report of. ... 156
Health, Board of, Report of. ... 14
Historical Commission, Report of ... 116
Housing Authority, Report of ... 113
Human Resources Board, Report of ... 151
Human Rights Committee, Report of ... 152
Information Technology, Report of ... 148
Inspectional Services Department, Report of ... 92
Municipal Building Committee, Report of ... 117
Oakes Ames Memorial Hall Association, Inc., Report ... 140
Old Colony Planning Council, Report of ... 126
Planning and Economic Development, Report of ... 95

Planning and Zoning Board, Report of 101
Police Department, Report of 87
Recreation Commission, Report of 118
School Committee, Report 19
School Superintendent, Report of 23
Select Board, Report of 8
Shovel Town Cultural District, Report of 145
Southeastern Regional School District, Report of 46
Southeastern Regional Services Group, Report of 147
Taxation Aid Committee 121
Town Accountant, Report of 60
Town Accountant Balance Sheet 61
Town Clerk, Report of 159
    Vital Statistics (Births, Marriages, Deaths) 162
    Licenses Issued 163
    Annual Town Meeting, May 17, 2021 167
    Annual Town Election, April 24, 2021 165
    Special Town Meeting, November 8, 2021 190
    Appointed Boards and Committees 2
    Elected Officials 6
    Department Heads 7
Veterans' Services Department, Report of 42

AT YOUR SERVICE

Ames Free Library	508-238-2000
Animal Control Officer	508-230-3353
Assessors	508-230-0520
Board of Appeals	508-230-0590
Board of Health	508-230-0620
Collector	508-230-0610
Commission on Disability	508-230-0586
Conservation Commission	508-230-0643
Council on Aging	508-230-0690
Department of Public Works	508-230-0800
Department of Public Works Water Division	508-230-0850
Fire Department	508-230-0750
Food Pantry	508-230-0670
Housing Authority	508-238-4747
Inspectional Services	508-230-0580
Planning & Economic Development	508-230-0630
Planning Board	508-230-0630
Police Department	508-230-3322
Recreation Department	508-230-0690
Select Board	508-230-0501
Town Accountant	508-230-0560
Town Administrator	508-230-0510
Town Clerk	508-230-0530
Treasurer	508-230-0600
Veterans Services Department	508-230-0690
Superintendent of Schools	508-230-3201
Center School	508-230-3233
Easton Middle School	508-230-3222
Richardson Olmstead	508-230-3227
Moreau Hall School	508-230-3235
Oliver Ames High School	508-230-3210
Parkview School	508-230-3230

EASTON EMERGENCY
POLICE
FIRE
MUNICIPAL AMBULANCE

DIAL 911